



Approved Minutes of June 9, 2011

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Carroll; Jack Frost; David Hadden; Jim Heffernan, Chair; Terrence W. Macy, Commissioner; Sheila Mulvey; Lou Richards;

Absent: Donna Bouteiller; Thomas Kalal; Gregory Kelley, Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo, Vice-Chair.

DDS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Kathryn du Pree, Deputy Commissioner; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative & Executive Affairs; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison.

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Jim Heffernan opened the meeting at 6:08 PM.

Review of minutes: Mr. Heffernan asked if anyone had corrections to the May 12th meeting minutes. Sheila Mulvey moved and Jennifer Carroll seconded a motion to accept the minutes as written. Because there was no quorum, the acceptance of the May 12th minutes was postponed until the July meeting.

OMBUDSPERSON REPORT:

Ed Mambruno summarized his monthly activities, reviewing a few cases of interest, including a person who sought reasonable accommodations at her work place. This was resolved positively. Other issues had to do with abuse/neglect eligibility and post surgical care. Ed spoke to a graduating PT class as he does annually. Lou Richards asked about calls related to abuse or neglect. Normally allegations are made to OPA. Ms. Carroll asked about calls regarding family support and case managers, in terms of connection to the DDS helplines. The scholarship award program granted a scholarship to a consumer of DDS for the first time. The award was given by Commissioner Macy and Mary McKay, South Regional Director. Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman attended. In total 18 scholarships were awarded.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The 2011 legislative session closed on June 8th. All legislation proposed by DDS was passed and has been summarized in a legislative update prepared by Christine Pollio Cooney and Rod O'Connor, which they shared with the Council. Three of the four DDS bills already have been assigned public act (PA) numbers. Governor Malloy has signed the respectful language public act into law. DDS has asked the Governor's Office for a bill signing ceremony for this law during the summer.

Ms. Pollio Cooney summarized the budget's implications for DDS. The Governor and legislature were very supportive of maintaining DDS funding for services and supports. DDS will be affected by various provisions in the budget implementer bills. Senate Bill 1240 includes the Governors budget proposal for changes in insurance reimbursement for Birth To Three services and language implementing the budget related to ending cost settlement with private providers. Various legislation impacts the consolidation of agencies and public service functions, some of which may impact DDS. The SEBAC agreement, if ratified, will affect managers and any other non-union employees. The legislature has until June 30th to approve the agreement if ratified.

The Bonding bill authorizes \$5 million in each fiscal year for improvements for DDS public settings and \$2 million in each fiscal year in grant in aid for private providers for non-residential settings. The bill requiring employee badges to be worn in health care settings was passed but does not include state agencies.

The Department of Public Health's omnibus bill was passed and includes a study to examine the benefits of a uniform licensing process across state agencies. This bill also initiates a federal criminal background check pilot and includes DDS's ICF-MRs. House Bill 6308, which passed, requires the state to open the state employees' health plan to municipal employees beginning in fiscal year 2012 and allows nonprofit organizations with state contracts to join the health insurance plan in fiscal year 2013. The bill including a workgroup to develop a plan to deinstitutionalize Southbury Training School did not pass. The bill is to establish a Personal Care Assistants workforce council did not pass. Other bills of interest to the Council were discussed.

Commissioner Macy complimented the work and diligence of Ms. Pollio Cooney and Mr. O'Connor during the session. Council members seconded this. The legislative update will be distributed electronically and posted to the DDS website.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:

Commissioner Macy reported that DDS will initiate the five-year planning process. The Commissioner will include the input from the family listening tours scheduled for June 2010. Deputy Commissioner Kathryn du Pree and Commissioner Macy discussed the groups who will have input into the Five Year Plan and its timelines. The draft plan will be written by mid-October and public hearings will be scheduled for the first week in November. Mr. Heffernan asked that time be devoted to discussion of the Five Year Plan during the September meeting.

The Commissioner discussed his current meetings with self advocates, both DDS Self Advocate Coordinators and members of People First. He is impressed with their organization and strategic planning, as well as their accomplishments. He then spoke about the department's efforts to provide family supports and his interest in enhancing them. Commissioner Macy convened his first transition committee meeting on June 9th. Mr. Heffernan is among the members of the transition committee. Mr. Frost asked who else was on the transition team. Commissioner Macy indicated the committee included representatives from many stakeholders to help the Commissioner formulate his vision for the department. David Hadden asked about filling the self advocate spot on the Council. Mr. Heffernan indicated the person should be appointed by July.

OLD BUSINESS:

The vote on the amendment to the Council's by-laws to allow Council members to teleconference was postponed because of a lack of a quorum. Mr. Heffernan asked about changes to the language in the by-laws to reflect recent statute changes concerning respectful language. These changes have previously been voted on and will be made once the teleconferencing amendment has been approved.

Future Meetings

July: Invitation to Sergeant Shane Hassett, DDS Director of Investigations

September: Invitation to Regional Advisory Council representatives and discussion of the Five Year Plan

October: Invitation to the Self Advocate Coordinators

November: Invitation to Ben Barnes, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Mr. Hadden discussed the non-profit cabinet report and suggested that its recommendations should be discussed by Council members. He recommended inviting Deb Heinrich, Non-Profit Liaison to the Governor and Anne Foley, Under Secretary of OPM, along with other people DDS staff believes would add to the discussion, to the December meeting to talk about the recommendations in the report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of the Community Training Home (CTH) program: Mr. Heffernan expressed concern about the recent media report of an arrest made of a CTH provider due to allegations of physical abuse. Deputy Commissioner du Pree reported that as soon as the allegation was made, an investigation was started and the three DDS consumers were removed from this home and transitioned to other appropriate community settings. The Deputy Commissioner discussed the review of this situation that has been initiated by the South

Region, which will involve an outside facilitator. The findings and recommendations of this review, which will be completed this summer, will be shared with the Council.

On a motion, Mr. Heffernan adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.