

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES



### Council on Developmental Services



*Dannel P. Malloy*  
Governor

#### **DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, October 9, 2014**

Location: Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Central Office, Conference Room A

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Rick Lenz; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Diana Mennone; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. Neil Stein

**Absent:** David Hadden; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo; Lisa Weisinger-Roland

**Staff:** Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Vice Chairperson, Jack Frost opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

#### **Public Participation**

No public participation.

#### **Approval of September Minutes**

Minutes for the September meeting were reviewed and approved with technical changes.

#### **Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney**

Christine updated the Council on the testimony to the Program Review and Investigations Committee. During the committee's recent study presentation, DDS presented testimony on the Autism division and our involvement with transition for individuals with autism between the ages of 15 to 25. The Committee sent out a survey, seeking input from families who have a family member in this age range. It was requested that Jennifer Bogin, DDS Director of Autism, come and speak to the Council about the Autism division.

Christine stated DDS has been working on revisions to its Community Living Arrangement (CLA) and Community Companion Home (CCH) regulations. The regulations will be available online for people to read and comment on. There will be two public hearings on October 27. Christine discussed submitting our draft technical proposals to the Governor's office and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The Autism Council's next quarterly meeting on October 22 will include a presentation on adding Autism services to the State Medicaid plan. The federal government has given the states, including Connecticut, some direction on State Medicaid plans covering services for Autism. Jennifer Bogin has been working with the Department of Social Services (DSS) on what services will be added to the state Medicaid plan. There will be opportunity for public comment at this meeting.

## **Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner Macy spoke about the Waiting List money and praised the regional staff that have screened almost 160 families who have caregivers over the age of 70 to determine the individual needs of each person.

The Commissioner announced Kendres Lally as the new Director of Investigations.

The Commissioner gave an update on the Waiting List Working Group and the presentations DDS has given to the group to update everyone on what the background information is for the DDS Waiting List. Next Thursday, 10/16/14, providers will be presenting to the Working Group.

The Commissioner spoke about the recent meetings with the eight Living the Mission mentor project agencies. The Commissioner asked the agencies to meet and collaborate as a group in addressing any common DDS barriers they have. The agencies came up with their desire to have a fourth region. The region, not being a geographical region, but the methodology in place that will expedite the issue and or issues that they are trying to bring forward. Jordan Scheff, the DDS North Regional Director, came up with the name of Fast-track Innovation Approval Team (FIAT) for the program. Pat Dillon, DDS Program Manager, will be the chair, with regional representatives at different levels to address innovative proposals much more efficiently. The Commissioner is very impressed with the person centered planning thinking from the agencies. The Commissioner asked if the Council had any recommendations they would like to comment on for the FIAT program.

The Commissioner discussed Quality Assurance and inviting Ms. Val Bradley, President of the Human Services Research Institute, to come to DDS for a two day workshop to work with staff on how to ensure person centered quality monitoring services.

The Commissioner spoke about the one year anniversary of the Community of Practice. Sharon Lewis, Principal Deputy Administrator at the Administration for Community Living (ACL) was the keynote speaker at the Supporting Families Community of Practice event held on Monday, September 15, at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

The Commissioner explained the Connecticut Plan for Assessing Compliance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule for Home and Community Based Settings. The Public Hearing for DDS's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver amendments will be held on October 22 at 1:00.

The Commissioner spoke about the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Study on Transitional Services for Youth and Young Adults with autism spectrum disorder survey.

The Commissioner updated the Council on the Southbury Training School (STS) Task Force.

## **Old Business**

Council members started a draft letter to the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group.

## **New Business**

Council members to write a letter to the (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group and consult Lisa Weisinger-Roland.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

