

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES



DDS

Council on Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Minutes of Thursday, December 11, 2014

Location: Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Central Office, Third Floor Training Room

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; David Hadden; Rick Lenz; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Sheila Mulvey; Patti Silva, Chair; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Patrick Vingo; Lisa Weisinger-Roland

Absent: Diana Mennone; Jamie Lazaroff

Staff: Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Peter Mason, Program Manager; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Public Participation

Andrea Barton Reeves, HARC; Mary Pat DeCarlo, Institute for Professional Practice, Inc.; Spencer Kane, consultant to Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) ; Katie Rock, CCPA; Stan Soby, CIB Oak Hill; Julia Wilcox, CT Association of Non Profits. This group spoke to council members about the impact of the plan to transition residential rates from the perspective of providers both above and below the proposed rate. The council expressed an interest in being kept up to date on any initiative to work on this issue and offered to be of help during the session if they could.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the November meeting were reviewed and approved with changes.

Ombudsperson Report

Ed Mambruno summarized his hand-out on his November report.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney

Christine went over legislative committee assignments, and will forward any additional information that she receives. The Legislative Program Review Investigations Committee Autism Transition Study will be presenting their findings and recommendations on December 17th and the ARC Family Hearing Day will be January 15th. Christine went over the Waiting List first quarter report which was sent to the Appropriations Committee. Christine spoke about recent articles regarding the siting of group homes. She will keep the council informed about this issue during the session.

Legislative Liaison – Rod O'Connor

Rod spoke to the Council and explained the proposed changes to the council bylaws to make them comply with state statute. The Council voted to accept the bylaws as amended.

Commissioner's Update

The Commissioner discussed the Waiting List and his concern about having enough funds to continue to place emergencies through opportune vacancies and recycled funding. The Commissioner commended the work that has been done with the new funding for individuals with elderly caregivers. The Commissioner thanked Peter Mason for his presentation on Transition to Level of Need Based Rates to providers at the NEAT Center in Hartford. The Commissioner spoke about how DDS is working on assessing the Quality Assurance department. Val Bradley, President of the Human Services Research Institute, came to Connecticut for a two day workshop to meet with quality staff on continuously improving the quality system. The Commissioner wants to bring quality service to a higher level. The Commissioner spoke about some new videos that are on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) web site which are geared towards families, transition, employment and eligibility. Kevin Lembo, State Comptroller, did a video about his family's reliance on community supports which has also been posted to the DDS web site.

Old Business

The Nominating Committee reported and David Hadden gave the recommendations to the Council from their December 2nd phone conference. The Committee met and voted and gave the Council their recommendations for Patti Silva to be re-elected as Chair, Jamie Lazaroff as Secretary and Adrienne Benjamin as Vice Chair. The Council accepted the nominations and there were no additional nominations from the floor. Members voted and the proposed nominations were approved. The 2015 meeting schedule was also approved by the Council.

New Business

The Council would like Lisa Weisinger-Roland's report on the (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group to be added to the agenda each month. The Council would like to invite Jennifer Bogin, DDS Autism Director, to come and speak to the Council. The Council would like to invite members of the Nonprofits to come and present their legislative proposals. The Council would like to invite Eugene Harvey, Regional Director of Southbury Training School (STS), to do a video conference along with the regional centers. The Council would like to host a Council meeting at one of the homes and invite legislators to come.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.