

DDS North Region
Advisory & Planning Council

February 27, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Present: Deby Godsell, Patti Silva, Jordan Scheff, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Jennifer Carroll, Donna Clauson, Jack Clauson, Lori Sandora, Annette Scully, Sarah Wheeler, Walter Glomb, Amy Blazawski, Collette Langner

Absent: Nancy Bilyak, Sara Glad, Florence Guite, Susan Miller

Introductions were made for the guests of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes were reviewed from the meeting of January 23, 2013. Minutes were accepted as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Regional Director's Updates –
 - Rescissions were discussed at the last meeting and Mr. Scheff reported that, for the most part, they have gone relatively well. One large provider has decided to leave the state of Connecticut. The May Institute, which also runs programs in Massachusetts, stated that the rates were the reason for their leaving. DDS is currently working on trying to have people remain in their current programs, however, it is unsure exactly how that will happen at this point.
 - There is new legislation that was proposed regarding the Hartford Regional Center in Newington which would prevent any more closures at that facility. Other public programs were also included, as well as two private agencies, but HRC was mentioned specifically. Three hearings held today included 1) blanket group home closures, 2) HRC specific closures, and 3) residential services for young adults with developmental disabilities.
 - Not sure yet what impact the sequester that is supposed to happen on Friday may have on Medicaid.
 - Mr. Scheff reported that Dr. Stephen Becker, Executive Director of HARC, has announced that he will be retiring in July.
- Membership/Meeting Schedule –
 - The schedule for the Council meetings was discussed. It was agreed that the 3rd Wednesday of the month continues to work the best for everyone. The meeting schedule for 2013 will stay as it is. Meetings will be moved to the 4th Wednesday if there is inclement weather. The meeting this evening was rescheduled to the 4th Wednesday due to conflicts with school vacations. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20th.

- Creative Housing Project –
 - Jordan Scheff explained that we are currently working with a broken legacy system which is no longer a viable option for residential placement. We have been trying to explore other types of residential options for families that will be in need of finding a residential placement. Mr. Scheff introduced Walter Glomb who is a parent who has been involved in the “Creative Housing Project” and is here to explain more about the “World Café” model and how it can be used to facilitate a discussion about creative housing. The DDS South Region has held a forum using this model to begin discussion on this topic and the North Region would like to plan one in this area as well.

Mr. Glomb shared a handout and provided information about how a World Café works. Information from the South Region events that were held was also shared.

There was discussion about beginning to plan for an event in this Region. A suggestion was made to possibly develop a planning committee as a sub-committee of this group or the Council could be the planning group. It was agreed that the whole group would begin working on the planning.

It was decided that the plan would be to hold the event approximately 12 weeks from now and have the information ready to go out in approximately 6 weeks. That means that within the next 6 weeks the mailing list should be developed, a date should be decided on, and a location should be chosen for a group of about 30 people for the first World Café.

Mr. Scheff offered to speak with Sheryl Kemp about a possible provider that may have the resources to provide a place and possibly food. Jordan will try to come up with three possible locations. Also, if anyone knows of any restaurants or other places willing to donate space those could also be considered.

It was agreed that the best day of the week for the event would be Wednesday or Thursday. Thursday, May 16th or Thursday, May 23rd were suggested dates and it was agreed that the venue should be identified, and the mailing list should be ready by the first week of April. Possible venues will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Claudia Neumann

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Executive Secretary