

DDS North Region Regional Advisory Council

October 19, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Collette Bement Langner, Richard Rothstein, Annette Scully, Tammy Selinger, Andrew Selinger, Elisa Velardo, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Ronald Langner, Lori Sandora, Pat Stavola

Elisa Velardo, Regional Director, began the meeting with introductions.

- Regional Updates –

- Elisa reported that we are about 95% completed with transitions related to the closures of the Meriden and Ella Grasso centers. All of the Ella Grasso transitions have been completed. Overall, all of the transitions to the North Region have gone very well.
- Conversions – There were 12 RFP's that were issued for the North Region. Proposals were due on the 17th by 4:00pm. Four of the programs did not receive any proposals. The RFP committees will be very busy through the month of November. The committees include representation from families, Case Management, Resource Management, medical staff, and each have a chair person. They will be meeting to discuss and review the proposals. The homes that did not receive proposals will be looked at to try to get a sense of why they may not have gotten any and they will go forward. It also may be that with the number of conversions the NR has had, some providers that have already taken on new services may be taking a break before taking on anything more.

Public Day Programs are in the process of transitioning to private services. DDS is in the process of developing Notices of Opportunity for providers. These are all individualized based on the setting and should be issued soon.

The IHS program (less than 24-hour) is also in the process of converting. Forty-four individuals currently receive IHS services. Meetings are being held to discuss options such as portability to a private provider, self-hire, etc. A provider fair is also being held in East Hartford at the beginning of November.

It was asked if we knew how many people from Ella Grasso and Meriden went into each type of setting, i.e. Public, Private, Regional Center settings. Elisa explained that there was a mix of all options. Some people chose opportune vacancies available within the community (with Private providers), one individual is moving to a Public CLA in the North Region which will be converting soon to Private, some families went through the Transition Hearing process and chose to move to either the Hartford or Lower Fairfield Regional Centers which are both like settings.

- Positions – we are now able to post four case manager positions which will be happening soon.

The Public staff from homes that have already converted have been reassigned and we are now beginning to see savings in overtime, as well as reductions from things such as vehicles, copiers, etc.

- Budget Updates -
 - Elisa reported that we need to look at a potential additional 10% cut. It is hoped that this will not become an actual cut since there are no Public homes left to convert; looking at efficiencies and any possible cost-savings.
 - Richard Rothstein reported that the Non-Profit Alliance still feels that there will be a very substantial deficit this year, over \$500 million. There are discrepancies, however, about what the true situation is. OPM says we are about where we should be, and OFA reported \$78 million short. There should be an update coming tomorrow.
- Other Discussion:
 - In accordance with the Connecticut Sunset Law (C.G.S. Secs. 2c-1 through 2c-8, as amended by Public Act 12-143), the Public Health Committee is charged with reviewing the Advisory and Planning Councils for State Developmental Services Regions. All three regions were asked to answer a questionnaire regarding their Advisory and Planning Councils in response to this request. The responses from all three regions will be combined and one response will be provided from the DDS Central Office to the Legislature.

The questions were reviewed and answered by the Council. Elisa will compile the responses to forward to Central Office and will share what is sent with the Council.

Part of the required information for the questionnaire was regarding whether the statutory membership/composition requirements of the Council are being met. Currently the NR Council does not have any elected officers. The requirement is that the Council must appoint a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary from among its members annually. There was discussion regarding appointments and it was unanimously agreed to appoint members as follows:

Chairperson: Collette Bement Langner
Vice Chairperson: Richard Rothstein
Secretary: Tammy Selinger

- Also, as part of the discussion in answering the questionnaire, ways to improve communication were discussed. It was suggested that the Council explore creating a North Region Facebook page for the RAC where resources and information could be shared. It was noted that the West Region Council already has a Facebook page. Annette Scully and Lori Sandora will explore this further.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 16th at 5:00 pm**. Please contact Claudia Neumann if there are any items to be added to the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary