

DDS North Region
Regional Advisory Council

May 15, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Rothstein (Chair); Donna Clauson; Joe Duffy; Collette Bement Langner; Ron Langner; Lori Sandora; Annette Scully; Tammy Selinger; Elisa Velardo, DDS North Regional Director

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

The meeting began with introductions and Elisa welcomed the guests that have joined us today.

- Legislative Updates
 - Three bills; one was passed
 - SB372 – provided for a stipend (non-taxable payment) for elders for families who have an individual with a higher level of need and is basically homebound. Where the parent is providing above-normal level of care. Other states are currently providing this. An amendment was proposed to keep it at 50 individuals which brought the cost down to \$2 million. It did pass the Appropriations Committee, but it needs more work and it was decided it would not be pursued for this year.
 - SB393 – LON assessment to propose a review of the current instrument to make it more sensitive to behavioral and medical conditions. Things that are not always able to be picked up in the current LON. The bill in the current form is being withdrawn and a task force is being developed to review and propose changes they feel are necessary to how the bill was written. It is expected to pass tomorrow with the compromise that was reached. There was discussion by Council members of LON questions and whether changes should be made to how the questions were written and who can answer them best. The point was made that they are supposed to be answered as if the person was alone. A suggestion was made to invite a group of case managers to share input from parents. Elisa stated that she would invite a case management supervisor to attend a meeting. Feeling is that there should be a review of questions to see if some can be changed or replaced, or removed; there should be consistency with case managers so questions are answered consistently; the document should be reviewed since it has been over ten years and there have been changes in technology and more difficult situations.
 - SB63: Alternate to Guardianship – on Senate calendar
 - The Appropriations Committee budget is very similar to the Governor's budget. The budget looks good at this point.

The Council voted to schedule a meeting in June since there may be a budget by the middle of the month. We will see if the meeting is needed as it gets closer.

- Regional Director Updates
 - IDASH – We were planning on having FAVARH attend tonight to speak about the program, however, they were unable to make it. They are one of two providers that will be developing programs. There are 39 total; one with 20 and one with 19 opportunities for DDS individuals. There are 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments. Elisa provided a handout with more information. 25% of residents would be people with disabilities (DDS, people on the spectrum, or served by DSS). They will be new buildings; the one in Canton should be complete in Feb. 2020,

and construction on the Bloomfield property has also begun. The buildings will have a community room, where planned activities will be built in, i.e. Zumba, etc. Clustering allows people to be able to share supports because of several people being in one setting; there is more affordability with vouchers, and it is more cost-effective. One setting will be 24-hours that will have 24-hour supports (CRS). The programs are being built with smart-home features, barrier-free, and making sure the units can adapt with the person. There will also be healthy, prepared meal delivery available. FAVARH will have a commercial kitchen. There will also be a cleaning service available.

- Step-Down Unit – This program is located in Newington at the Hartford Regional Center (it is a separate program from HRC) for people who were in crisis in a hospital to allow them to leave the hospital. It opened in February and is already full. Some people leave to return to their family home or the setting they were in previously, some will go to a new setting. Referrals must all be made through the Regional Director's office for very high priority cases. There is specialized trained staff, clinical staff, and nursing staff available. Also, any outside supports that are already in place will be continued.

Motion was made to adjourn, and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary

DDS North Region

Regional Advisory Council

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

East Hartford Office

5:00 PM

SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	Signature
Donna Clauson	<i>Donna Clauson</i>
Joe Duffy	<i>Joe Duffy</i>
Collette Bement Langner	<i>Collette Bement Langner</i>
Ron Langner	<i>Ron Langner</i>
Rick Rothstein	<i>Rick Rothstein</i>
Annette Scully	<i>Annette Scully</i>
Tammy Selinger	<i>Tammy Selinger</i>
Elisa Velardo	<i>Elisa Velardo</i>
Claudia Neumann	<i>Claudia Neumann</i>
Dawn Clauson	DAWN CLAUSON
Lori Sanders	<i>Lori Sanders</i>
Lorigagliani	<i>Lori Lorigagliani</i>
Mary Ann Beaver	<i>Mary Ann Beaver</i>
Guests:	
<i>Wendy Mabeen</i>	<i>Wendy Mabeen</i> <i>mabakageraldine@cox.net</i>