

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
MS Teams Video/Audio Conferencing
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021
6:00 PM**

Members Participating: Chair Leslie Bridges-Parent, Lynn Arezzini, Robin Brewer, Carol Cooney, Barbara Deindorfer, Dawn DeMatteo, Heidi Earle, Kate Haaland, Erin Mcguire, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Members of the Public in Attendance: Dave Cassano and Diane Martin

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS Executive Secretary

Chairperson's Report:

- **Call to Order** – Chair Bridges-Parent called the meeting to order shortly after 6:00 PM.
- **Citizen Comments** – N/A

Review of Meeting Minutes: Following review, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021, meeting as presented.

Regional Director's Updates: Director Dailey updated the Council on recent happenings at DDS. Notably:

- Request to CMMS to extend aspects of Appendix K
- DDS set to announce vaccination clinics for individuals supported by DDS
- CT has done well with the vaccine roll-out ranking 5th in the nation.
- Legislative updates: PCA/direct hire → legislation percolating around instituting a \$25.00 fine per day if not paid timely.
- Seeking approval to proceed with an Emergency Transitional Housing Program in New Haven. Individuals served will included those exiting from DOC.
- Supportive apartment program in Orange. MidState Arc to provide residential services. There will be 10-15 units with 24-hour support available. Another supportive apartment program is being developed in New Haven with Vantage. There will be 10-15 units with 24-hour support available. Rental certificates accepted. Close to Chapel Haven. Collaborative effort to include funding from DOH.
- DDS is recruiting for the position of Director of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity
- EVV System – More and more people are signing up. Denise Paladino, SD Director, is available for questions.
- The State of CT is anticipating the retirement of a sizable portion of the workforce in 2022. DDS is starting to see an uptick in retirements now.

Director Dailey fielded questions on the relaxation of day program guidelines as related to the pandemic, the parameters of the Appendix K extension, and the upcoming DDS Vaccination Clinics.

Open Council Discussion:

DDS Residential Support Survey (Related to Public Act No. 17-61) – The DDS Residential Support Survey was a tool used by DDS to gather information on the needs of its census to report to the legislature. This one-time survey assisted the department in establishing new priority categories for Wait List funding and led to funding for elderly caregivers.

Council members recommended that the residential support survey be conducted annually and discussed advocating for it with their respective legislators.

EVV System – Members Earl and Brewer offered to assist others with setting up their Electronic Visit Verification System.

DSS / Social Security Issue – A council member requested guidance on how to go about resolving an issue she is having with DSS. Director Dailey will reach out to DSS staff who are assigned to DDS to help families navigate the DSS system for guidance on the member's behalf.

New Business: Chairperson Bridges-Parent requested that Legislative Updates return as standing agenda item going forward.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region