



COMMUNICATIONS

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DDS Commissioner Appoints New Family Support Strategies and Advocacy Director and Waiver Services Director

(Hartford)- Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D. appointed DDS Employees Robin Wood as Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy and Siobhan Morgan as Director of Waiver Services. Commissioner Macy is extremely pleased with these appointments which will enhance the advocacy and leadership of the department.

“The new Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy position has been a priority of mine for some time and Robin Wood has the depth of experience to fulfill our high expectations for it,” said Commissioner Macy. “Not only is she a parent but she is also a very experienced professional and a well practiced systems advocate. She understands the strengths and weaknesses of our systems, has a national perspective on current trends and issues and will provide the leadership we need to pivot our services to be much more person and family responsive.”

Ms. Wood began her career in 1979 as a special education teacher. In 1982, she became a program director, and then moved on to the executive director position, in a non-profit agency that provided both residential and employment services to people with intellectual disabilities. In 1987, she became a nationally recognized employment consultant providing training and technical assistance on supported employment for individuals with intellectual disability. In 1992, she co-owned a consultant business which focused on school-to-work transition and inclusion of students with disabilities in school settings. In 2001, she began her state service as the South Region Self Determination Director helping to implement and manage the agency’s new and innovative self direction service which allows individuals and their families’ greater control over the supports they receive from the department. After several years, Ms. Wood was moved to DDS Central Office to continue to focus her time on self-determination, training and education. She has served on many boards including the Governor’s Employment Committee and Autism Steering Committee.

Most recently, Ms. Wood was responsible for leading the department’s Employment First Initiative. She helped to develop the vision for the initiative and worked tirelessly on implementing and managing an \$800,000 Connect-Ability federal grant for the project. An Employment First website was recently launched and provides individuals and families with a wealth of information about real work for real pay.

Ms. Wood received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut and her Masters Degree in Human Service Administration from Antioch/New England Graduate School, Keene, New Hampshire.

Ms. Siobhan Morgan was named to manage DDS's federal funded waiver programs. As the Director of Waiver Services, Ms. Morgan will be responsible for reporting to the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), management of current waivers and development and implementation of new waivers.

"We are very happy to announce that Siobhan Morgan will be the new Director of our Waiver Services," said Commissioner Macy. "Her varied experiences in our field give her a substantial background with which to assess how we can best meet the needs of the people we support and their families. She is uniquely qualified to help us demystify Medicaid regulations and help us refine our resources to provide services that reflect our people and families first mission."

Ms. Morgan began her career in 1987 as a direct care staff at HART Inc. and continued at HART Inc for 7 years in a various capacities. In 1994, Ms. Morgan started her career at DDS as a Case Manager at Southbury Training School transferring to the South Central Region as a Support Broker in 1998 working directly with individuals and their families. In 2002, she became a Case Management Supervisor, overseeing more than 20 Case Managers, Social Workers and Support Brokers. Her work in DDS Private Administration Case Management provided an opportunity to manage and coordinate caseloads; train and mentor case managers in services and supports and work directly with DDS private providers.

In 2008, Ms. Morgan took on the responsibilities for Aging at DDS. She managed the department's "Money Follows the Person" program, researched and analyzed programs that would affect elderly consumers and implemented recommendations in the DDS Aging Service Plan. She was dedicated to expanding collaboration between state agencies and the development of networks and alliances within the Aging community. Ms. Morgan was appointed Interim Manager of Waiver Enrollment in 2011 in addition to her other responsibilities. She focused on the waiver enrollment processes and future development and integration of waiver assurances crucial to this process.

Additionally in 2011, Ms. Morgan was appointed Interim Director of DDS Autism Services. She managed staff and operations of the division and monitored all contracts, individualized budgets for supports and services and all aspects of eligibility.

Ms. Morgan received her Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies with Major Course Study in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut. She also received a Masters Degree in Gerontology and Human Development from St. Joseph College, West Hartford, Connecticut.

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