



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

DRAFT Minutes of December 13, 2012

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In Attendance: James Heffernan, Chairman; Jennifer Carroll; Jack Frost; David Hadden; Thomas Kalal; Jamie Lazaroff; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo, Vice Chairman

Absent: Marisol De Jesus ; Lou Richards

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative and Regulations Analyst

Chairman James Heffernan opened the meeting at 6:06 P.M.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of October Minutes

Minutes for the October meeting were reviewed. Two changes were requested. Jennifer Carroll made a motion, seconded by Jamie Lazaroff, to accept the minutes with changes. The Council voted unanimously to accept the October minutes with changes.

Ombudsman's Report

The Ombudsman's Reports for October and November were distributed. Ed Mambruno highlighted the issues he has worked on with families during these months. Mr. Mambruno discussed the new proposed Mission Statement for the Office of the Ombudsman for Developmental Services.

New Business

The nominating committee comprised of Ms. Carroll, David Hadden and Patti Silva recommended to the Council that the slate of candidates for the Council officers for 2013 be Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; and Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary. Having no further nominations from the floor, Mr. Hadden made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Jim Heffernan. Mr. Heffernan made a motion to vote on the proposed slate of officers for 2013 which was seconded by Dr. John Pelegano. The Council voted unanimously for the recommended slate of officers for 2013.

The Council reviewed the Council's 2013 meeting schedule. The meeting date for February was changed from the 14th to the 13th. Thomas Kalal made a motion to accept the Council's 2013 meeting schedule as amended. Jack Frost seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to accept the 2013 meeting schedule with the change to the February meeting date. The Council requested to include discussion of future meeting topics and potential site visits as part of the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Heffernan congratulated Commissioner Macy on receiving the 2012 President's Award from the National Conference of Executives of the Arc.

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Macy and Deputy Commissioner Drexler explained DDS's strategy to prioritize as much of its budget reductions as possible in nonessential areas. DDS will "trim along the edges" and thereby reduce cuts that impact day or residential allocations. Regardless of where DDS cuts, on January 1, 2013, the department's budget allotment will be reduced and the impact of the reductions will be seen in areas such as One Time Funding requests. As the department needs to contain its costs it will be significantly constraining on procedures in these areas going forward. Requests for funding that may have been routinely agreed to in the past may now no longer be considered. Only the most significant needs will be funded. The net result of its "trim around the edges" strategy will be a DDS that has less flexibility to respond to consumer needs than in the past.

Rod O'Connor discussed different ways the Council members can communicate effectively with the Governor's office and legislative leadership concerning cuts to DDS's budget in the Deficit Mitigation plan being voted on by the legislature on Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Mr. O'Connor shared that the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 will be presented on or around February 6, 2013 and the Appropriations Committee will hold public hearings on the Governor's budget during the weeks of February 11, 2013 and February 18, 2013. Everyone on the Council is encouraged to attend these hearings and speak in regards to how the proposed DDS budget for FY 2014-2015 will affect them personally.

The Commissioner updated the Council on the most recent department activities concerning the Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation (FINAR). The unannounced team that was led by Dr. Steven Zuckerman reported that he and the team were in agreement that all 10 individuals from Connecticut that have been placed at FINAR were safe and well supported. The Department of Developmental Services' goal is to return six of the ten individuals as soon as placements are found in Connecticut.

New Business

Mr. Kalal thanked Commissioner Macy for the Mission Kickoff that was held on Monday, November 26th. He found it to be an exciting event.

Ms. Carroll reported that she had been asked to serve as a designee to the Personal care Attendant (PCA) Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Kalal and seconded by Ms. Carroll.