

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

APPROVED Minutes of May 10, 2012

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

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

Absent: James Heffernan, Chairman; Jamie Lazaroff; Sheila Mulvey; Lou Richards

Guests: Special Olympics – Robert “Beau” Doherty, President; Michael Mason, Sr. VP & CFO; Kathryn Femiak, Volunteer Manager

Staff: Christine Cooney, Director, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Maureen Prewitt, Executive Secretary

Vice Chairman Patrick Vingo opened the meeting at 6:06 P.M.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of March and April Minutes

March – Minutes for the March meeting were reviewed. Thomas Kalal made a motion to accept the minutes as written for the March meeting. Dr. John Pelegano seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to accept the March minutes as written.

April – Minutes for the April meeting were reviewed. Thomas Kalal made a motion to accept the minutes as written for the April meeting. Jack Frost seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to accept the April minutes as written.

Ombudsman’s Report

The Ombudsman’s Reports for March and April 2012 were distributed. Mr. Ed Mambruno highlighted the issues he has worked on with families during these months.

Patrick Vingo asked about the family that had moved out of state and then returned thinking they would receive the same services as when they left. Mr. Mambruno explained that families who returned to Connecticut are not automatically re-enrolled in services. When someone leaves the state, that individual’s funding goes to other individuals. Families who had residential placements before the move have a much longer wait for a placement than those individuals who moved out of a day program. This is due to the long waiting list for residential services. The Level of Need Assessment tool and new rate system that now exists may not have been in place when the family moved.

Ed mentioned that the Governor's Coalition Ceremony is scheduled for May 18th at 10:00 A.M. at the Old Judiciary Room in the State Capitol. Dan Micari, DDS' Director of Quality Management will be representing DDS, as both the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have prior commitments and are unable to attend.

Volunteerism: Special Olympics Presentation

Robert Doherty, President; Michael Mason, Sr. VP & CFO; and Kathryn Femiak, Volunteer Manager were at this month's meeting to present information on the Special Olympics Volunteer Program - Changing Attitudes – Changing Lives. The organization sponsors both traditional and unified team sports. Having the unified sports teams in the elementary, middle and high schools has created new friendships among all the athletes. Research has shown that this bonding helps to reduce bullying in the schools and communities.

Corporate and civic sponsors are a big part of volunteering and contribute to all aspects of the events. Some corporations use this type of event to support team building exercises.

The following statistics were shared: 6,324 athletes statewide, 25 sports are offered, and there are 5 major competitions each year. There are 10,000 volunteers who assist with events, 3,138 of these volunteers are between the ages of 12 and 25 and 1,200 coaches of which 600 are certified.

Attached is a copy of the Special Olympics presentation.

Legislative Update

The 2012 Legislative session ended at midnight on May 9th. A comprehensive Session Wrap Up will be distributed via email to Council members once finalized.

Christine distributed a summary of the status of key legislation being tracked as of May 10th and highlighted some of the bills that impact consumers, families and guardians, DDS employees and DDS providers. Attached is a copy of the report that was distributed or you can access the document through the following link <http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=2039&q=431222>.

Commissioner's Update

Budget - Commissioner Macy stated that a budget update for FY13 is being prepared and will be distributed. This budget is the tightest in 10 years. Of note is the \$2 million rescission to the Personal Services account (wages, benefits, etc.). As this account has experienced repeated cuts, it is inevitable that operations of the organization will begin to be affected. Some of the other accounts where cuts were made are in Family Support Grants, Human Resource Development, Family Reunion, and Community Placements. It is anticipated that High School Graduates and Age Outs will continue to be funded.

The Commissioner indicated that many providers continually ask when their vacancies will be filled. There is no funding for the waiting list. As vacancies within agencies become worrisome, providers need to find other alternatives or options.

A draft of the Department's new Mission and Vision has been published on the DDS website and is available for comment.

The 5 Year Plan has been posted to the DDS website. All interested parties are invited to comment on the Plan.

DDS has received approval to fill the positions for the Director of Autism Services and the Director of Family Services Strategy. The list of potential candidates for the Director of Family Services Strategy has been received and interviews will begin the end of May. Interviews for the Director of Autism Services should begin in June.

Commissioner's Update Continued

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are meeting regularly with the three Regional Directors. It has become evident that there are inconsistencies between the three regions in many areas. These areas will be reviewed to determine the best practices for the individuals we serve and their families.

Of the three vacant Assistant Regional Director positions, two have been filled. The individuals are expected to start in the next few weeks. The third position is still in the hiring process.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Vingo and seconded by Dr. Pelegano.