



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Approved Minutes of June 14, 2012

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

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

Absent: Jennifer Carroll; Thomas Kalal; Sheila Mulvey; Lou Richards

Guests: James Welsh, Esq., DDS Legal Director

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Sgt. Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations, Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson

Chairman James Heffernan opened the meeting at 6:04 P.M.

Mr. Heffernan thanked James Welsh for taking time out of his schedule to speak to the Council.

Jim Welsh, DDS Legal Director, presented information about the department's role in the criminal justice system. The presentation was requested by Chairman Heffernan in response to a recent newspaper account of an individual with intellectual disability currently being held in a Correctional institution.

Attorney Welsh explained the competency evaluation process and the department's role in that process. The department has no legal authority to post bond for individuals served by the department who are arrested, but can provide support during the process. If an individual is determined "not competent/restorable", DDS may be ordered by the court to conduct restoration training. If the individual is found "not competent/non-restorable", the court may order the individual placed in the custody of the DDS Commissioner. Each DDS Region maintains a Forensic Review Committee to review and act in matters involving persons with intellectual disability who become involved in the criminal justice system. DDS has a specific account dedicated to respond to court-involved individuals.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of May Minutes:

Jack Frost made a motion to accept the minutes as written with the correction of Robert Doherty's minutes should read as Robert "Beau" Doherty for the May meeting. David Hadden seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to accept the May minutes as written with the correction of Mr. Doherty's name.

Ombudsman's Report:

The Ombudsman's Report was distributed. Ed Mambruno shared his May report with Council members and updated them on a few issues he has worked on with families.

Mr. Mambruno shared the 17th Annual Governor's Coalition for Youth and Disabilities Scholarship Ceremony was held on May 18th where Shawn Gauthier was awarded a scholarship.

Commissioner's Update:

Commissioner Macy stated he had just returned from the NASDDDA's conference in Sacramento California. The conference was both informative and encouraging. The conference reinforced DDS's 5 Year Plan and the direction the agency is heading in.

The Commissioner spoke of the immediate need to develop strategies to address the number of cases DDS is facing with psychiatric needs. New relationships need to be created with our private providers to think how we can better assist these individuals.

The West region was an example of reaching out to our private providers and sitting down to discuss the possible placements of DDS's Emergency list. Mr. Vingo asked if the West region was able to place these individuals. The outcome is still unknown but, providers walked away working together to create an atmosphere of strategizing between the agencies to assist the ones in need and keep their agencies whole.

Commissioner Macy shared that 7 agencies were placed on enhanced monitoring. This is a constructive partnership when flaws have been identified within an agency during which time no referrals can be made. Jack Frost asked if these agencies can remove themselves from the enhanced monitoring. Deputy Commissioner Drexler explained this is a time that DDS and the agency works together to correct the violations with oversight and guidance. Typically agencies turn themselves around and have successful years without violations.

Commissioner Macy is pleased with the candidates that have been selected for the Individual and Family Support Strategy position and the fact all screenings have been done by a stakeholders group. This is a new position that will work with families on how to transition a family earlier in the process. This position will be reportable to the Commissioner.

On Friday, June 22, 2012 the first Leadership Think Day will be held. This day will address the greatest leadership change within DDS in the past 10 years and how we can do better with less while listening to the needs of the individuals we support. A follow up meeting is scheduled in January 2013 to evaluate what we have implemented, do we want to expand and what if any challenges are getting in our way.

Jamie Lazaroff and Commissioner Macy have been meeting with the Arc and the Commissioner of DOT to address the transportation issues that individuals are faced with every day. Mr. Lazaroff shared with the Council that he will be contacting the press to demonstrate how difficult it is to travel from one point in the state to another. Patti Silva offered to support this effort in any way. Mr. Heffernan thanked Jamie for taking the time to address this most important issue.

Commissioner Macy expressed how happy he is that the Administrative Team is coming together and how everyone is willing to work together. The Commissioner thanked Deputy Commissioner Drexler for showing great leadership within everyone coming together.

New Business:

Deputy Commissioner Drexler was pleased to share that Joan Barnish, Director of Communications has been working on establishing video conferencing for DDS, and this will create regional capabilities for participation.

Mr. Vingo discussed the 21st Pro Sports Challenge that will be held on Saturday, June 21 at New Canaan High School.

Mr. Heffernan shared with the Council that 5 members were approaching or have already passed the official expiration date. Christine Pollio Cooney will be emailing a grid that illustrates each member's expiration date and the type of appointment for each Council member.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Lazaroff and seconded by Mr. Hadden.