

**DRAFT**  
**DDS North Region**  
**Advisory & Planning Council**

April 25, 2012  
Meeting Minutes

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Present: Nancy Bilyak, Sara Glad, Florence Guite, Susan Miller, Jordan Scheff, Patti Silva, Claudia Neumann (sign-in sheet attached)

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Introduction of New Regional Director
  - Mr. Jordan Scheff introduced himself as the new Regional Director for the North Region. He provided some background information about himself and his previous experience in the field. Mr. Scheff was most recently the Executive Director for the private provider agency MARCH, Inc. before accepting the position of Regional Director for DDS.
- Regional Director's Updates
  - Budget – It was reported that the budget for next year will most likely be tighter, although 2-4 years out does look somewhat better.
  - Uniform rates – there has been some delay with working out some of the details for beginning to transition to uniform rates which will mean that they are now looking at having the new system in place by June 2013.
  - The CRS residential model was briefly explained and discussed - A CRS is a non-licensed group home which provides 24-hour care. It is more like a Supported Living setting where all of the individuals living in the home are responsible for all of the bills, i.e. electric, plowing, etc., which has been difficult for some. The difficulty with this setting right now is that currently there are no clear guidelines on how they should be run, so different settings are being run differently. More specific guidelines are in the process of being developed.
  - The Executive Order that has been passed to unionize Personal Care Assistants (PCA's) was discussed. All PCA's will have to join the union. There is concern regarding the impact this will have on individuals and families who self-direct.
  - The membership and some possible future topics for the Council were discussed. Suggestions for possible new members were Albert Lognin (HARC), possibly someone from Allied (Enfield area), and someone from the Manchester area.

Some of the successful events that have been held in the past were shared with Mr. Scheff. Several family forums have been held to share information on particular topics. Guest speakers have been invited to Council meetings to share information regarding topics such as guardianship and legislative issues. The Council also normally sponsors a Legislative Breakfast which is held annually at the Legislative Office Building for information sharing with legislators and to thank them. Last year there was a lower turnout for this event since it was held during vacation week in April and most legislators were not available to attend. The breakfast was not scheduled for this year.

A suggestion was made that possibly Robin Wood, Self Determination Director, could be invited to attend a meeting to share self-determination/employment information. Jordan Scheff also suggested that Karen Sticklin, ARD for Individual & Family Support, and Jim Covino, Clinical Director, could be invited to give updates about things that are happening in their divisions in the Region. These will be added as future agenda items.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. which is the last meeting before the summer. No meetings are held in June, July, or August.

Submitted by,

*Claudia Neumann*

Claudia Neumann  
Executive Secretary

