

DDS North Region
Advisory & Planning Council

November 28, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Present: Sara Glad, Deby Godsell, Susan Miller, Jordan Scheff, Claudia Neumann

Absent: Nancy Bilyak, Florence Guite, Patti Silva

Guests: Peter Szruba, Family Support Network NE Region; Walter Glomb, parent; Amy Blazawski, DDS Self-Determination Director; Karen Sticklin, DDS ARD-IFS Division; Sheryl Kemp, DDS ARD-Private Division

Meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes were reviewed from the meeting of October 17, 2012. One addition was made that DDS will ensure that Council members are informed of any trainings or events that are happening within the Region.

Minutes were approved with the correction.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Peter Szruba from the Family Support Network, Northeast Region (which covers areas such as Putnam, Killingly, Stafford Springs, Plainfield, Vernon) introduced himself and explained that he is a parent himself and that he attends PPT's with families for support to parents and also works assisting with connecting families with available resources that are needed. It was stated that DDS will ensure that information that we receive from the CT Family Support Network will be made available to Council members.
- Regional Director Scheff stated that after the last meeting where the focus of the group was discussed along with some potential new directions that the group could possibly move toward, as well as the format of the meetings, he researched the statute that pertains to the Council. The statute regarding Council requirements was shared.
- Mr. Walter Glomb is a parent who was asked to attend tonight's meeting to speak about the Creative Housing Project. Mr. Glomb explained that with the changes that are occurring in services there is a need to find new ways to provide residential supports for people, to serve more people with fewer dollars, and to communicate to families how things have changed. There is a need to communicate to families who think that DDS has a plan to provide services that they are expecting. Families need to understand that there will no longer be group home placements. In the South Region a series of forums were held to explain this and people were asked to share how they have developed different types of services. It is his feeling that information needs to be shared in other Regions as well with as many groups as possible, and as many ideas as possible need to be shared which is the purpose of this project.

The North Region would like to move forward with holding an event similar to the one held in the South Region, working with as many support networks as possible, i.e. Family Support Network, the Regional Advisory Council, etc. They would like to hold more than one and the format does not necessarily have to be the “Café to Go” model that was used in the South, we could do different types of forums. The goal would be to have it be an outcome-based exercise.

There was a question raised about how there could be purposeful discussion with so many different focus groups. It was stated that the first piece would definitely need to be educating parents. It will also be very important to get the education system more involved with how the system has changed.

Mr. Glomb stated that his hope is that this will become part of DDS. In the past things happened basically parent to parent. Mr. Scheff said that there is a clear message now within the Department that the old legacy system no longer works and the new vision is to partner with providers and families to develop new solutions.

There was discussion regarding how to get people to participate in the events. It was suggested possibly having the CT Family Support Network try to get a few people to attend the next Council meeting which will be held in January. Mr. Glomb stated that their group has not had a problem with participation, however, meetings need to be held locally and there is a need to give people a clear direction of why they are there.

It was agreed that people from other groups should be invited to attend the meeting in January. The meeting is scheduled for January 16th at 6pm (snow date of January 23rd). It was also agreed that the focus for the first meeting should be families (parents/siblings); families with adolescent children, not young children.

- Moving the Mission – an event was held by the Department to celebrate the launching of the new Vision and Mission statements of the Department. The “Living the Mission” event was held on Monday, November 26th and was attended at Central Office by Governor Malloy. The Central Office event was shared with the other Regions by video conference, and individual events were held at each regional office.
- Regional Director’s Updates – Jordan Scheff reported that a rescission of \$23 million was announced for the Department by the Governor’s Office today. The Department had submitted budget options, however, they were not accepted. Other cuts were made and no direction has been given yet as to what it means exactly for the Department.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 16, 2013** at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,
Claudia Neumann
Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary