

DDS North Region
Advisory & Planning Council

October 17, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Present: Nancy Bilyak, Sara Glad, Deby Godsell, Jordan Scheff, Patti Silva, Claudia Neumann

Absent: Florence Guite, Susan Miller

Guest Presenter: Robin Wood, DDS Central Office

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Jordan Scheff began the meeting by introducing Robin Wood who has now changed roles within the Department. She has recently left the North Region and is now at Central Office as the new Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy.

Robin shared a handout outlining what her new role entails. She stated that the position basically has four parts:

- Improving communication with families
- Responding in a more timely manner with families
- Exploring how we can make things better for families
- Working to plan with families long-term

She explained that she has been going out and meeting with family groups, such as this one, and would like to know how she can help the Council in their role; also, how can she help this group connect with other family groups.

The new direction for the Department with the new commissioner is to include stakeholders (families, self-advocates, providers) more in all major changes with the Department, i.e. the new Mission, and really begin to open the doors and get more involvement from outside.

Problems with membership of the Council were discussed. The possibility of changing the function and matching “projects” with what people are interested in was suggested instead of the regular monthly meeting format. Jordan Scheff stated that he will check into the statutory requirements for the Council.

It was asked that the Council be added to email notifications of any events/trainings that are scheduled. Information has not been getting to Council members. There was a training recently held that no one on the Council was aware of. We will ensure that email addresses are added to distribution lists.

Robin also shared other projects she is involved with, including:

- Accessible Communication
- Strategic Planning – the new Mission was developed and she will be conducting meetings to continue to work on moving the Mission forward
- 5-year Plan

- Reviewing policies and procedures – some changes have been made recently in the direct hire policy
- Conferences and trainings for parents and families
- Updating material on the web

Regional Director's Updates:

- The Region is currently trying to refill the position left by Robin Wood
- Abuse & Neglect – with the recent video that was released in the media, the Department is currently looking at how all Abuse & Neglect training is being done
- FINR report – there was another story in the media regarding a facility in Florida where some of our individuals reside and an incident of possible abuse. We are really trying to look at what needs to happen to prevent these types of situations all over in both public and private settings.
- DDS is currently working with providers to help with better understanding of self-employment for individuals.
- Jordan will be attending the SELN (Self-Employment Leadership Network) conference in Virginia representing DDS. He is also serving on the Self-employment Steering Committee (Robin's committee). Participants on the committee are DDS staff, families, providers, and consumers.
- The Department is looking at developing new residential options. The Café to Go event that was held in the South Region was discussed.
- Public portability – Jordan has been working with Tina Abbate, Public ARD, and has been making some progress with individuals moving into private agency homes. Also, some individuals in Supported Living have hired retired State staff which has reduced the need for public staff.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Claudia Neumann

Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary