

**DDS North Region**  
**Regional Advisory Council**

March 29, 2017  
Meeting Minutes

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Members Present: Nancy Bilyak, Tammy Selinger, Andrew Selinger, Lori Sandora, Annette Scully

Staff: Elisa Velardo, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Mary Lou O'Connor, Laurie McKenney, Kim Smith (DDS-CCH), Tom Marinak (DDS-CCH)

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

Meeting began with introductions.

- Community Companion Home (CCH) Discussion – Elisa stated that at the last meeting, with the discussion of the Governor's budget, one of the types of programs that was mentioned was the CCH program. At that meeting, the CCH program was described and council members expressed interest in having someone come to the RAC and present an overview of the CCH program. Elisa introduced Kim Smith, CCH Program Manager and Tom Marinak, Assistant Manager from the CCH division who were invited tonight to give more details about the program.

Kim explained the process for someone to become a CCH licensee. There is a very strict process that must be followed which includes training, home inspection, police checks, motor vehicle violation checks, etc. For the first year that a person is licensed, they are only allowed to have one individual living in the home. After the first year, they can have up to three. Most licensees have one or two individuals in their home. There are approximately 110 CCH's in the North Region and we receive two or three calls per week from people who are interested.

In the Governor's budget, some funding was identified specifically for the CCH program, however, we do not know if that will go through yet. If it does, it should open up the program to more people. We also try to make sure that anyone who is interested in exercising portability knows that the CCH program is also an option. An individual going into a CCH must have funding, which is at the LON rate.

Tom Marinak shared a personal success story about a relative that has been living in a CCH for quite a long time and is doing extremely well.

The CCH program holds an annual Silent Auction fundraiser to raise funds to sponsor a "soiree" for all of the CCH licensees, families, and individuals living in CCH's. It offers an opportunity for networking between the families, where they can share resources and make connections with one another, and coordinate respite for each other.

- Budget Updates – Elisa reviewed questions that were sent from Collette Bement Langner that were shared with Council members regarding the testimony given by Acting Commissioner Scheff at the public hearing that was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Elisa explained the IDASH program that is being developed. This is a clustered IHS setting where someone would live in their own apartment but have support available close by.
  - Wrap-around supports are when someone received both Day and Residential supports as a package.

- Case Management, Quality Management, and Resource Management are identified as “core services”.
- It was asked if someone could come and present regarding the updated IP. Elisa will follow up with Bob Smith at Central Office.
- TCM – Elisa explained that every time a case manager has any contact with an individual or family, they enter a note into the system which shows that services were provided. This is used for billing for those services for federal reimbursement.
- Waitlist Project – Elisa will invite Karen Sticklin, ARD for Individual & Family Support, to speak about IFS and the Waitlist committee. She was the management representative on the committee.
- Residential Request Assessment and Support Survey – the plan has been submitted. We are waiting for it to be finalized.

The next meeting will be the combined meeting to be held with the Council on Developmental Services and the other Regional Councils which is scheduled for Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the DDS Wallingford Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
***Claudia Neumann***  
Executive Secretary  
DDS North Region