

DDS North Region
Regional Advisory Council

January 18, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Collette Bement Langner, Chair; Richard Rothstein, Vice Chair; Nancy Bilyak, Ronald Langner, Lori Sandora, Annette Scully, Tammy Selinger, Andrew Selinger

Staff: Elisa Velardo, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Mary Lou O'Connor, Donna Cohen, Lorraine DeFreitas

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Meeting began with introductions.

- Family Hearing Day 2017 – Hearing Day is to be held on February 1, 2017, Rm. 2C from 10:30-1:00. Submitting written testimony or appearances for testimony is encouraged. There is a link on the ARC website to submit testimony.
- 2017 Legislative Bills – proposed bills have been sent to different committees. Collette Langner emailed a list of proposed bills to Council members and shared some of the ones of interest that will be watched. Some of those were HB5024, HB5163, HB5318, HB5333, HB5665, SB38, and SB39.

It was stated again how very important it is at this time for people to be present. If not in person, please send input in.

- Budget Updates:
 - Elisa Velardo reported that it has been slow so far, but it is expected that things will be increasing. There have been no additional cuts right now. Things have been holding stable and looking okay so far.
 - Collette reported that the projected deficit as of July 1st will be \$1.5 billion. That would mean that there would need to be a 13% cut which would translate to approximately \$68 million for DDS. Some ideas and suggestions of where that might come from have been discussed. Mainly to reduce Personnel Services and privatizing public homes.
 - It was asked what the status is of the conversion process. Elisa explained that rounds 1 and 2 have been completed. Round 3 has not been completed, which means that the original timelines will not be met. The Round 3 committees have met and have completed the committee process. Round 4 RFP's were issued, but committees have not been formed. Everything is on hold at the present time.
 - The advocacy subcommittee of the Partnership has been meeting to try to agree on a few issues for proposal. Rick Rothstein shared the list of 7 agreed upon items. As of yesterday, the Governor's Office has been made aware of the list.
 - It was asked what the status is of the Waitlist committee that was meeting to come up with new definitions. Elisa reported that they are meeting tomorrow to finalize how they will roll it out and how training will occur. It will be presented and discussed at the Council on Development Services meeting tomorrow.
 - It was also shared that the new IP will be coming out which has been developed by another committee. The feeling is that it will also give more information about the census.

- 2017 Sunset Law Final Response – Elisa shared that all three regions provided responses which were combined to formulate the final document. The final response that was sent to the legislature was shared with the Council.
- Regional Updates
 - Elisa shared that Commissioner Murray's last day will be tomorrow. Her successor has not been named at this point. The feeling is that we will have consistency through the transition process with having Jordan as the Acting Commissioner.
 - DDS has had some retirements which is the reason that our budget is still looking okay. None of those positions, with the exception of nurses, are being refilled. The conversions have helped with our vacant direct care positions, and there have also been ten durational positions that have been hired which has helped to reduce overtime. All of the staff from the closed regional centers have been temporarily transferred, which typically happens until a job fair can be held when they can make permanent job selections. Other positions that have been approved for refill are four case managers. This will be very helpful since, at one point, the North Region was down 15 case management positions.
- Other Discussion:
 - Rick shared that he attended the Five-Year Plan Hearing that was held. There were a number of families that spoke, but a lot of employees as well. The North Region seemed to have had the best representation. Comments are posted on the DDS website.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15th at 5:00 pm**. Please contact Claudia Neumann if there are any items to be added to the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary