

**DDS-South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2009**

Members Present: Vice Chair John (Jack) Frost, Michael Del Sole, Esq., April Dipollina, Steven Fusti, Nancy Kalal, Danielle Shepard, Claire White, Kim Wollschleager, and Mary McKay, RD DDS South/Ex-Officio Member.

Members Absent: Marianne Burke

Guests Present: Dominic Dipollina and Carol Clooney.

I. Vice Chairperson's Report

Call to Order - Vice Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Guest Welcome – Vice Chair Frost opened the meeting by welcoming all to the Council meeting and inviting citizen comments. There were no citizen comments.

Review of Minutes - Members were asked to review and comment on the meeting minutes of November 18, 2008 and February 18, 2009. In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting and the February 18, 2009 meeting, as presented to the meeting.

Statewide Council on Developmental Services Update – Vice Chair Frost distributed copies of the Council on Developmental Services meeting minutes of March 12, 2009. He then reviewed highlights of the content and discussed various presentations that were made by DDS staff members at the meeting. Questions and discussion ensued on the topics of the managed care pilot, role of the DDS Ombudsperson, CCPA's report on the impact within the provider community of a 0% COLA, and noteworthy press releases.

II. Regional Director's Updates

Budget Update – Ms. McKay described various additional cost savings strategies introduced by the Governor since the last meeting, such as a strict hiring freeze, purchasing restrictions, and contract cancellations. Discussion ensued on the remaining budget gap for FY09 and concerns about the effect on the state's Rainy Day Fund. Ms. McKay then noted that the budget for the next biennium is still in the review stages and now sits with the Appropriations Committee. Commissioner O'Meara testified before the committee and DDS subsequently provided

additional information requested. Council members discussed avenues for advocacy but determined that it may be best to wait until an Appropriations budget is announced to determine what impact that will have on DDS.

DDS Website Update – Ms. McKay demonstrated for members the newest sections of the DDS website which may serve as useful resources for consumers and families. First, the Provider Profile section was reviewed including the qualified provider list, town-finder, and quality reports. Council members concurred that this is a significant improvement that should help individuals to exercise informed choice about service providers. Next, the Transportation section of the website was reviewed which offers consumers practical information about varied transportation alternatives throughout the state.

III. New Business

Nomination of Officers – Vice Chair Frost deferred this item to the next meeting.

Public Agency Meeting Requirements – Ms. McKay distributed information referencing the governing statutes and regulations for councils, boards, and committees. This was issued by CO as a reminder to all groups in the state. Members were asked to familiarize themselves with the requirements and bring any questions or points of discussion to the next meeting.

Adjournment - There being no further business before the Council, Vice Chair Frost adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

IV. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the DDS South Region Advisory and Planning Council will be held on May 20, 2009 at 6pm at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton, CT.

Minutes Submitted By:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Jolie Crescimano-Goss
Executive Secretary
DDS-South Region