

**DDS-South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2009**

Members Present: Chair Claire White, April Dipollina, John (Jack) Frost, Steve Fusti, Nancy Kalal, Danielle Shepard, and Mary McKay, RD DDS South/Ex-Officio Member.

Members Absent: Marianne Burke, Carol Cooney, Michael Del Sole, Jill Hall, and Kim Wollschleager.

Guests: Thomas Dailey, ARD, IFS Division, Mr. Kalal, and Ms. Martin.

I. Chairperson's Report

Call to Order - Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. She thanked Jolie for taking the meeting minutes throughout the year and for her work in supporting Council activities. Next, she thanked IFS Division ARD Thomas Dailey for attending the meeting. Introductions by all followed.

Citizen Comment – None presented.

Review of Minutes – A review of the September 23, 2009, meeting minutes ensued. In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2009, meeting.

Statewide Council on Developmental Services Update – Mr. Frost summarized a presentation on the Waiting List presented by Deputy Commissioner du Pree at the Council's last meeting. Information shared included:

- 1559 individuals received residential supports during the course of the five-year settlement agreement.
- All WL service goals surpassed.
- WL service costs averaged \$50K per person, per year.
- Served 1,007 from home and 552 underserved.
- Funding Stream=\$41M allocated by Governor and legislature plus over \$50M in DDS recycled dollars.
- The revision of the Comprehensive Waiver and the development of an IFS Waiver.
- Increase in the number of people who self-direct.
- Inception of the VSP (now serving 450 children).

- Increased the numbers of case managers and reduced caseload ratios for individuals on the waiver.
- Waiver Manual developed.
- Streamlined PRAT process.
- Developed LON.
- Waiting list down but planning list increased.

Currently there are 499 on the wait list (includes E's and P1's only). With no new wait list funding this year, resources are limited to recycled dollars. The wait list is growing at a rate of approximately 120 individuals per year. Discussion ensued on what could be done to annualize a legislative funding allocation. On-going advocacy would be essential. Ms. White asked about the possibility of STS dollars funding the waitlist, as available. Historically, STS funds supported the development of respite centers and family support teams. While the likelihood of STS dollars being recycled for this purpose is low, this might be something Council chooses to advocate for.

Discussion focused on current trends in E's and P1's. Ms. McKay stated that in terms of E's, DDS is encountering younger, autistic, challenging, and aggressive individuals between the ages of 19-29 years old.

DDS Dental Coordinator Izabella Pulvermacher provided the Statewide Council with an update on her work for the Department at its last meeting. In her role as dental coordinator, Ms. Pulvermacher serves as a resource for families, consumers, and DDS staff, participates in care coordination, collaborates with OPA, and publishes the DDS Dental Newsletter. She has established a number of professional relationships and community collaborations and looking ahead, hopes to engage in creating educational opportunities for future dental professionals in delivering dental care to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Ms. McKay added that the South Region has a dentist on staff that provides services out of the Norwich Office and that recently the Region received permission to refill its dental hygienist position, which has been vacant since July 1. Next, discussion turned to barriers facing the DDS population in receiving dental services. Areas of concern include a shrinking pool of dentists willing to see T19 patients and an increase in the volume of required paperwork (i.e. new PRN requirements). Ms. McKay said she would research the six-month re-order issue and report to the Council.

II. Regional Director's Updates

FY 10 funding Priorities – As outlined in a memo from Deputy Commissioner du Pree, Ms. McKay shared DDS' FY 10 funding priorities.

In prioritization, they are as follows:

1. Emergencies.
2. Individuals with Immediate Protective Service Plans (IPSP) requiring placement.

3. People on the waiver who have unmet health and safety needs who are underserved or unserved residentially.
4. People on a waiver who have services in one portion on their life but no service in the other and who have an unmet need that is not directly related to emergent health and safety needs but require support to stay in their own or family home.
5. People in SNFs whose needs cannot be met under MFP requirements.
6. CTH opportunities can be considered for non-waivered people if the opening has first been offered to other regions for individuals who meet one of the priorities above.
7. Day services can be offered to individuals not the on the waiver if all individuals' needs for day services who are on a waiver have been met.

Deviations from these funding priorities will require approval by both the RD and the Deputy Commissioner.

In response to an inquiry about the waiver, Ms. McKay explained that we have not reached our maximum in terms of enrollment but in CT, we have to be budgeted to meet 100% of an individual's need up front. The 50% federal reimbursement comes back to the general fund after the fact. In other parts of the country, the state budgets 50% of the cost while providers pursue the other 50% from the federal government. Mr. Dailey noted that CT spends more to support people with intellectual disabilities per capita than any other state in the country.

Legislative Update – Deficit appropriations hearings are underway. Secretary Genario testified that DDS' deficit is \$23.7M.

Budget Update – State agencies are required to plan for the possibility of a 5% cut for FY 11.

Fall Family Forums Summary Review – IFS ARD Thomas Dailey reported on the recently held Fall Family Forums. The focus of the forums was the DDS Helpline. The forums were a great success. Family and provider turnout was good and evaluation results were positive. The survey results indicate that families are looking for guidance on probate, transitioning, and vocational issues. Improvements were suggested in the areas of collaboration with school districts, education and outreach, and enhancing ways of communicating with families. Mr. Dailey noted confusion about resource allocation priorities among the families he spoke with. Some were discouraged to learn that they would not be getting all they expected upon reaching adulthood. Mr. Dailey stated that Helpline staff will be hosting two topic-specific presentations for families in the near future and that more could be scheduled going forward. Ms. Dipollina stated a DSS representative who offered to do a presentation to the FSN on guardianship and social security contacted her. She suggested that the FSN and IFS Helpline staff co-coordinate the presentation. Conversation centered on possible topics for the spring family forums. Recommendations included school district

collaborations and guardianship issues. Proposals for enhancing communications between the Dept. of Education and DDS included attending the SPED Administrators monthly meeting and pursuing a legislative mandate requiring collaboration between key state agencies.

Next, Council members shared concerns over case management trends. There is a perception that the level of service provided to urban vs. suburban area families is not always consistent. Additionally, the quality of service, in terms of a case manager's individual understanding and knowledge of the service system, is inconsistent. In response, Mr. Dailey recognized the Department's role in developing trainings that provide for continuity of understanding among its case managers.

IFS Helpline Update – Mr. Dailey distributed and reviewed a summary of Helpline activity to date. The total number of individuals helped per month ranges from 48 to 64. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Families are enjoying a quick response to initial inquiries and have expressed a great appreciation for the level of assistance they are receiving. Respite, Grants, and T19 inquiries are among those most commonly received.

III. New Business

2010 Schedule of Meetings – Following review, the Council voted to approve the 2010 Schedule of Meetings. Council meetings will be held in January, March, May, June, September, and November. A copy of the meeting schedule will be distributed to the Council electronically following tonight's meeting.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chair White adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

V. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the DDS-South Region Advisory and Planning Council will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at 6:00 pm, at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton.

Minutes Submitted By:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Executive Secretary, DDS-South Region