

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2016**

**Members Present:** Chair Steve Harney, David Cassano, Jeffrey DePina, Susan Gardner, Britney Gudeahn, Steve Harney, Lauralyn Lewis, Diane Martin and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

**Guests Present:** Lindsay Mathews, Margaret Mummert and Denise Tift

**Scribe:** Jolie Crescimano-Goss, Executive Secretary, DDS South

**Call to Order:** Secretary Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**Citizen Comment:**

- Ms. Mathews expressed her appreciation and support for the staff at the public residential group home. The staff, residents, and their families have been together for many years and function as a “family”. The staff are great and the individuals living there receive amazing care.
- Best Buddies CT Chapter is hosting a Special Athlete’s Day at CT College on April 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities to include volley ball, soccer and hockey. The event is open to all athletes. Contact jhickey@conncoll.edu for questions.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 2016 meeting were reviewed. ***Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016, meeting based on the corrections noted during the meeting.***

**Chairperson’s Report**

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update:**
  - At the last meeting, presentations were held on the DSS Community First Choice Program and low interest loans and first time homebuyer options through Chelsea Groton Bank. The Creative Housing Workgroup continues to meets the second Thursday of the month at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook from 6 -8 pm.
- **Field Activity Report:**
  - The People Matter Coalition attended Lobby Day at the LOB earlier today. It and other advocacy groups have caught the attention of the legislators and are making a difference. The issues facing families and individuals with ID are at the forefront and legislators are listening. The coalition is looking for more families to join the movement.
  - Member Lewis reported on proposed legislation related to DDS. HB5128 calls for funding appropriated to DDS to remain with DDS. SB294 would require DDS to conduct a census and analysis of the residential wait list.

## **DDS Administrative Updates**

- Regional Director Dailey discussed and responded to questions about the following:
  - FY16 budget and rescissions.
  - The Governor's proposed budget for FY17.
  - The conversion and closure of DDS residential settings.
  - Grad and Age-Out funding
  - PRAT Stats
  - Planning List vs. Wait List
  - Hiring Freeze
  - Retirement Projections

## **Membership**

- Jean Brookman has resigned from the Council.
- Heidi Earle has been appointed to the Council effective May 1, 2016
- Diane Martin has completed her membership term. The Council thanks Ms. Martin for her service and her many contributions.

**Next Meeting:** May 18, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Acton Library, Old Saybrook, CT

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Jolie Crescimano-Goss**

Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary