

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chair Jeff DePina, Kathleen Stauffer, Leslie Bridges-Parent, David Cassano, Heidi Earle, Susan Gardner, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralynn Lewis, Dawn DeMatteo, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Director

**Guests Present:** Denise Tift, April Dipollina, Margaret Mummert, Susan Clayton, Carol Cooney, Jacob Earle, and Diane Martin

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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

**Citizen Comment:** Ms. Lewis commented that funding for transportation and many services are at risk as we enter the next legislative session. She encouraged all to get involved with advocating at the legislative level. Getting connected to the IDD Caucus and sharing your family's story at one of the upcoming public hearings on the Governor's proposed budget are good places to start.

**Approval of minutes:** The draft minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the council voted to approve the minutes of the November 2016 meeting.*

**Chairman's Report:**

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** - A Presentation on special needs planning was held at the January meeting. Stuart Hawkins, parent and Board Chairman of PLAN, a non-profit organization that acts as a trustee for special needs trusts, presented. The meeting was well attended, and the presentation topics generated much discussion. In follow-up, the Workgroup will hold an open discussion on the same topics at its next meeting scheduled for February 2 at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook.
- **Field Activity Report** - Multiple advocacy groups, with varying philosophy's and goals, have been in talks with the Council on Developmental Services to determine their legislative goals for the session. A consensus was reached to focus advocacy efforts on seven issues including, but not limited to
  - Wait List reporting
  - Employment & Day Budgets for Grads
  - Respite Care
  - Fair Wages

This information will be presented to the IDD Caucus and the Governor.

**DDS Administrative Updates:** Regional Director Dailey provided an update on current DDS activities and initiatives. He responded to questions posed by Council members on a variety of topics.

**Old Business:**

- **2017 Meeting Schedule** - The council voted to approve the 2017 schedule of RAC meetings.

**Open Council Discussion:** Discussion centered on the impact administrative changes at DDS have had on the budgetary process and the RFP process for the conversion of publicly-operated CLAs to the private sector.

**Next Meeting:** March 15, 2017, 6:00 PM, Action Library, Old Saybrook, CT

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

***Jolie Crescimano-Goss***

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DDS South Executive Secretary