

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2017**

Members Present: Chair Jeff DePina, Leslie Bridges-Parent, David Cassano, Dawn DeMatteo, Susan Gardner, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralynn Lewis and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Guests Present: Denise Tift, Margaret Mummert

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.

Citizen Comment: None.

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 January 2017 meeting.*

Chairperson's Report:

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** (Vice Chair Lewis reported) – Two new families attended February's meeting. Planning is underway for another roommate match to be held at Camp Harkness this June or July.
- **Field Activity Report** (Vice Chair Lewis reported) – The legislative session is underway. Advocates and families had an opportunity to come before the I/DD Caucus in support of fully funding DDS on February 7 during family hearing day at the LOB. The Governor released his proposed biennial budget for 2018 & 2019 on February 8. Advocacy groups continue to track bills related to DDS and attend various committee hearings. Now is the time to connect with legislators about the needs of persons with I/DD and align with one of the many groups advocating at the legislative level for persons with I/DD.

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.

New Business: Discussion ensued on possible agenda items for the upcoming statewide meeting of DDS councils. Vice-Chair Lewis will forward to Adrienne Benjamin, Chair of the Council on Developmental Services, the list of agenda items generated by the RAC during the meeting.

Open Council Discussion:

- Member Gudeahn announced the 2nd Annual Arc New London County Film Festival to be held on April 27, 2017, at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Mashantucket, CT.
- Over the Edge is Special Olympics' newest fundraising initiative. Visit their site for details.

Next Meeting: Statewide meeting of DDS councils. The date, time, and location of the meeting are pending.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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DDS South Executive Secretary