

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2017**

Members Present: Chair Jeff Depina, Leslie Bridges-Parent, David Cassano, Dawn DeMatteo, Susan Gardner, Steve Harney, Lauralyn Lewis, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Public Present: Janet and Mark Plummer, Carol Cooney, Denise Tift, and Debbie Steele.

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:09 PM. All made introductions.

Citizen Comment: Members of the public shared their concerns about high school grad funding, private provider services, and the DDS budget. Member Lewis encouraged all to get involved with advocating at the legislative level and networking with other families.

Approval of minutes: The draft minutes of the Council's September 2017 meeting were reviewed. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the council voted to approve the minutes of the September 2017 meeting.*

Chairperson's Report:

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** (Member Gardner) - The workgroup continues to host guest speakers on a variety of housing, future planning, and support related topics for individuals with ID. More recently, DDS Director of Family Support Strategies Robin Wood presented on life course planning and shared living options. Meetings are typically held monthly at 6:00PM at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. Anyone interested in learning more about the workgroup should contact April Dipollina at adipollina@lmhosp.org. Guest Mark Plummer noted that he read a good article on intentional communities in the Atlantic.
- **Field Activity Report** (Vice Chair Lewis) - CT state legislators have passed a budget for FY2018-2019. Governor Malloy signed off on most of it on October 31, 2017.

DDS Administrative Updates: Regional Director Dailey provided an update on the following:

- DDS budget
- Grads
- Staffing
- Conversion home initiative
- IFS grants
- Manager on-call system
- Meriden respite center
- Funding emergencies
- Day services in Intensive Care Facilities (ICF)
- Behavioral Services Program (BSP)
- Community First Choice (CFC)
- Money Follows the Person (CFC)
- Community Companion Homes (CCH)
- Policies and procedures
- DDS 101 – The Front Door pamphlet (draft)

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New Business:

- **2018 Schedule of Meetings** - The council approved the 2018 schedule of meetings.
- **New Officer Elections** - Elections for council officers for 2018 held. Results will be released by the RD's office via email by the end of the week.

Open Council Discussion: Discussion ensued on the possibility of the Council hosting another round of Cafés To Go in the coming year.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2018, at 6:00 PM, at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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DDS South Executive Secretary