

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees  
Met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School,  
Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, June 26, 2017.**

Present:      Eileen Lemay, Chair  
                   Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair  
                   Diana Mennone  
                   Louis Richards  
                   Mark Cooper  
                   Eugene Harvey

Eugene Harvey conducted a tour of the newly renovated Cottage 7 with the members of the STS Board of Trustees prior to the meeting.

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:24 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Current Resident Population – 224. This is minus two from the last meeting and both are due to death.

Residential

- Cottages 31, 5 and PBR will close by Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. There are currently four residents remaining in Cottage 31 to be placed.
- Cottage 7 will accept its first new residents on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, when the four gentlemen from Cottage 5 will move in.
- Summer staff have been hired for both the pool and Camp Harkness. Both programs will operate as planned. Guardian consent forms for residents attending summer camp were discussed.
- A bid of \$27,000 was received for the completion of an engineering plan to install heat pumps in Cottages 18 and 33. It is hoped that both buildings will be independent of the Powerhouse by this winter.
- The elevator for Cottage 40 is under reconsideration. Bids will be requested for an exterior steel structure in which STS Physical Plant can provide the enclosure.
- The use of personal cell phones for 911 calls was discussed.
- Sleeping on duty issues and protocols were discussed.

**COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Diana Mennone, STS BOT Representative to the Council on Developmental Services, reported on the April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup> meetings.

April 20, 2017

DDS Self-Advocate Coordinators (SACs) highlighted a Power Point presentation emphasizing the 2015 campaign **We Are People – Call Me By My Name**. The SACs are hoping to eliminate several words; “client”, “patient”, “ward”, “handicapped”, and the “R” word – “retarded”. They are asking everyone to take the Disability Awareness Pledge which reaffirms a commitment to seeing the person and not the disability. (Hand-out of pledge was distributed at Trustees’ meeting) Over a thousand people have taken the pledge. Josie Torres, Self-Advocate Coordinator, West Region, testified in March before the Public Health

Committee promoting the Governor's Bill SB No. 796, An Act Concerning the Use of Respectful and Person-First Language.

Commissioner Jordan Scheff updated the Council on the busy legislative session. The Governor released today (April 20, 2017) that he has developed a contingency plan that includes additional layoffs. Negotiations have not gone as well as the Governor or Secretary Barnes has anticipated. At this time there are all sorts of discussion on several budget ideas.

DDS is working on language for the Office of Protection & Advocacy (OPA) to stay at DDS. The Commissioner reached out to representatives from the ARC of Connecticut, the Council and a few other places to come together in checking-in on concerns over the move of investigators to DDS to help and oversee some of the transition.

Christine Pollio Cooney (Legislative Liaison) gave a legislative update. See minutes on DDS website as details of the bills are lengthy.

Adrienne Benjamin (DDS Council Chair) spoke about the great need for advocacy by the Council for the day programs (new graduates, new funding). Also, as a collective group, the DDS Council's visibility is necessary in advising the Governor, legislators, the community and DDS.

#### May 25, 2017

A statewide meeting was held at the DDS South Regional Office in Wallingford, CT. The Council on Developmental Services and the DDS Regional Advisory Planning Councils (RACs) as well as the DDS Commissioner, Regional Directors from the North, South and West Regions and other DDS staff members were present.

Commissioner Jordan Scheff, filling in for Christine Pollio Cooney and Rod O'Connor who were at the Capitol, gave a legislative update on a couple of bills. See minutes on DDS website as details of the bills are lengthy.

Secretary Ben Barnes of the Office of Policy & Management (OPM) and Governor Malloy announced that ongoing labor negotiations between State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) for statewide public contracts had reached a general framework. Projected layoffs will have an effect for DDS if layoffs were to move forward. The general framework that was released includes a no lay-off clause for a period of four years.

Individual Plan (IP) Redesign. Bob Smith, DDS Program Manager, is working on the modifications and updates to the IP. Improvement will hopefully provide information for families to help and connect people to some resources that are available. Also, trying to get away from deficit based assessments.

There was a discussion about Community Companion Homes (CCH) formerly called Community Training Homes. Also discussed was the Shared Living arrangement.

There will be camp at DDS this summer. Both Camp Harkness and Camp Quinebaug will be open and operating.

Commissioner Scheff talked about his viewing of CPTV's *Building a Great Life* video and encouraged all the members to view it if they had a chance.

Regional Updates from the North, South and West groups –

The RACs in general are ambassadors with the DDS Council to promote the opportunities that are available and share information in sponsoring a unified agenda of support. They were originally a gift from the legislature in the 1970's and were called Regional Advisory Planning Councils.

All three groups would like the different RACs to compare agendas and guest speakers. There is a need for more families to be involved in attending RAC meetings. There is a need to use social media and get out awareness about the RACs. A suggestion was made to each have a Facebook page or a coordinated regional or central RAC Facebook page as well as having a newsletter. They would like the RACs mentioned at every IP meeting.

DDS Council Chairperson, Adrienne Benjamin spoke about advocacy and advising opportunities in reaching out to legislators, the Governor and the public. While the legislature is in session, it can be a good time to write letters, send emails, make phone calls, lobbying and uniting to speak out and be heard.

To view approved minutes, go to the DDS website at [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) - click on **BOARDS AND COUNCILS**, click on **COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**, scroll down to: **2017 MEETING SCHEDULES / MINUTES**. Find dates of **MEETINGS**; see **AGENDA** columns and **MINUTES** columns to the right.

To ask and receive DDS legislative updates, email the DDS Legislative and Regulations Specialist: [Rod.OConnor@ct.gov](mailto:Rod.OConnor@ct.gov) . More information is available on the DDS website: [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) (Legislative Affairs).

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board discussed the Southbury Planning Commission's meeting held June 13, 2017 at the Southbury Firehouse. The Planning Commission met to discuss future uses for the Southbury Training School campus.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, September 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Mark Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.; Diana Mennone seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Webb, Recording Secretary

Mark A.R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees  
June 30, 2017