

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, July 10, 2014

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Adrienne Benjamin; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Sheila Mulvey; Patrick Vingo; Commissioner Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio;

Absent: David Hadden, Diana Mennone, Lisa Weisinger-Roland; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; James Heffernan;

Staff: Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Chairperson, Patti Silva, opened the meeting at 6: 11 p.m.

Public Comment

Dr. Neil Stein is in the process of being appointed to the Council and attended the meeting as a member of the public. Bella Silva shared her summer camp experience with the council and discussed activities she is looking forward to in the next school year.

Approval of June Minutes

There was not a quorum of members therefore the June minutes could not be approved at this meeting.

Ombudsperson Report

Ed Mambruno distributed his June monthly report and gave a synopsis of some of the calls. Mr. Mambruno highlighted a call from a family who uses Camp Harkness. He praised the region and the Commissioner's office in working together to enable the family to have their vacation at Camp Harkness on the dates they requested.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney

Christine Pollio Cooney reported the set of regulations for the Birth to Three program were approved by the legislative Regulations Review Committee. All DDS agency bills from the 2014 legislative session have been signed by the Governor and assigned Public Act numbers. Rod O'Conner and Christine are still drafting the end of session update which will be distributed to members once complete. She answered the question about Council appointments and explained what appointment slots were currently available or would be open in the future

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Macy spoke about the Waiting List Working Group. Governor Malloy organized a working group called the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Service Improvement Working Group (the "Working Group"). The Governor invited the Commissioner to be a member. The focus of the Working Group is the DDS residential Waiting List. The Commissioner mentioned has had frequent contact with Jon Slifka, co-chair of the Working Group. The Commissioner reviewed materials he presents to the Working Group on the Waiting List. The Commissioner handed out and explained to the members a packet of information on the Waiting List he received from his national peers through the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). To date, nine states had responded to the query.

The Commissioner spoke about the work Siobhan Morgan, Director of Waiver Services, was accomplishing on the Final Rule information. He explained about the requirements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Commissioner went over the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule issued January 2014 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Commissioner spoke about the transition plan process for Connecticut. The process ensures that the waivers and state plans meet the HCBS settings requirements. With the mentoring project and the Community of Practice activities, Connecticut is already engaged in the process.

The Commissioner commented on the process for allocating the \$4 million in new dollars for FY15 that was approved by the legislature and the Governor this year. He spoke about the process case managers are using to gather information from families they serve regarding the types of services they want and what their support needs are both now and looking forward to the future. A case management tracking system is being utilized which allows case notes to be seen in current time. The Commissioner said it is exciting to have the opportunity to get a very detailed picture of who the people are we serve and what their needs are.

Deputy Commissioner – Joseph Drexler

The Deputy Commissioner explained his hand-out on the number of Abuse and Neglect Investigations and Registry cases. His hand-out titled DDS Investigation Dashboard, explained the DDS and provider open investigation status as well as the status on all investigations. The Deputy Commissioner said everyone is working very hard to reduce the backlog.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Council members discussed writing a letter to the Governor's Working Group to express their excitement and offer their help and support. Patti Silva would like to add this item to September's agenda for further discussion.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.