

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, September 11, 2014

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; Adrienne Benjamin; David Hadden; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Diane Mennone; Dr. Neil Stein; Lisa Weisinger-Roland

Absent: James Heffernan; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Sheila Mulvey; Patrick Vingo

Staff: Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

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

Public Comment

Rick Lenz is in the process of being appointed to the Council and attended the meeting as a member of the public.

Approval of June and July Minutes

Minutes for the June and July meetings were reviewed and approved with changes.

Ombudsperson Report

Ed Mambruno distributed his August monthly report and gave a synopsis of some of the calls. Mr. Mambruno highlighted a visit he had to the Channel 3 Kids Camp during Autism week. He was very impressed with how inclusive the camp was and especially how well campers and mentors worked together.

Legislative Update – Commissioner Macy

Commissioner Macy updated the Council about the upcoming legislative session and answered questions from members of the Council on the current budget and prospects for the upcoming session.

Commissioner's Update

The Commissioner spoke about his September monthly meeting with the DDS Self-Advocate Coordinators (SACs) and how the number of self-advocates are expanding. There is an increase in new groups and members as well as an increase in agencies having active groups. The Commissioner spoke about DDS SACs receiving national recognition at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Reinventing Quality Conference in Washington, D.C. Beth Aura Miller from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) along with self-advocate, Jossie Torres, spoke at the conference in August.

They also spoke at the National Core Indicators (NCI) national meeting and were recognized for all the work they are doing to support the NCIs.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Joe Drexler gave an update on the Abuse & Neglect Registry. DDS has increased its legal staff which has allowed DDS to begin to reduce the number of pending cases.

The Commissioner spoke about the upcoming Supporting Families Community of Practice event to be held on Monday, September 15, from 8:30 to 3:30 at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill, CT. The keynote address speaker will be Sharon Lewis, Principal Deputy Administrator at the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Jack Frost said he would like to attend.

The Commissioner spoke about the new Early Childhood Autism Waiver for three and four year olds served by the DDS Division of Autism Spectrum Services. The Commissioner spoke about working together with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Social Services in coordinating the Department of Health & Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) bulletin on Medicaid Coverage of Services to Children with Autism.

The Commissioner reviewed the handout of questions from parents and families (via the I/DD Caucus).

The Commissioner gave an update on the fiscal year 2015 Waiting List initiative.

The Commissioner gave an update on the presentations to the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group by members of the DDS staff.

Old Business

Council members to write a letter to the (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group.

New Business

Council members formed a group to write the letter to the (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.