



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services
State of Connecticut

Developmental Services Council
April 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Location: Meeting Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Fredrick Lenz Jr., Pamela DonAroma, Michael Beloff, Patti Silva, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Adrianna Ramirez, Damion Williams, Kevin Zingler, Nicole Milo

Members of the Public: None

Absent: Brian Dillon, Kelly Dorsey

DDS Staff:

Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner

Kevin Bronson, DDS Director of Communications, Legislation, and Regulations

Wesaneit Tsegai, Executive Secretary

Sarah Ullom-Minnich, ARPA Planning Manager

Introductions

Chairperson Silva called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and noted that the threshold for a quorum was met.

Opportunity for Public Participation

Chairperson Silva next asked if there were any members of the public who were interested in addressing the Council under the “Public Participation” section of the agenda. Members of the public are allotted three minutes to do so.

There were no members of the public who spoke.

Dialogue

Chairperson Silva started by allowing the commissioner to share his update with the council. He shared updates on the GTI Transition, and informed the Council that they were invited to a presentation hosted by the new Fiscal Intermediary.

Commissioner Scheff went on to share news on an exciting demonstration held by Pulselight, an analytics company that analyzes medical claims data and matches it to critical incident reports, showcasing their newest version of the software. He shared that he was very excited about the

potential of its application in allowing DDS to help more people and would like to have them present to the council in the future.

Chairperson Silva next asked DDS Communications Director Kevin Bronson to provide a legislative update briefly. He shared that there was not much action now, but the two DDS bills had been consolidated into a single bill. Other than this, DDS was waiting to see the outcome of current negotiations.

The Chairperson moved on to the approval of past minutes. Members voted to approve outstanding minutes:

- March
 - Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Pam DonAroma, seconded by Councilmember Kevin Zingler. Passed unanimously.

The Chairperson next introduced Sarah Ullom Minich who presented a presentation on the ARPA Funds and how DDS has been using this support. **The presentation can be found on the website.**

Chairperson Silva next addressed the Ombudsperson report. Ombudsperson Shannon Jacovino shared that there has been an increase in complaints about DDS, some of the common threads have been:

- GTI
- Staffing Crisis
- Housing support

She also updated council members on a request to look into private provider complaints, stating that the majority of complaints surrounded housing. Particularly, concerns about the decrease in quality of services, the lack of follow through, often with staff on medical and behavioral issues.

Chairperson Silva moved on to future meeting topics, suggesting that future presentations should be focused on discussion topics and concerns to have a more focused dialogue with presenters. Taking the following suggestions:

- ❖ Topics for Future Meetings
 - Discussion Topics
 - Pam DonAroma-Continual update on DSS cutting CFC funds for ID individuals
 - Lisa Weisinger-Roland- Experience of Council members with the healthcare system
 - Adrienne Benjamin- Abuse and Neglect
 - Presentations
 - May- Gloria Jones, Director of Nursing
 - Resource Management- Sean Bannon
 - Medical Walkthrough- Lisa Roland

This concluded the discussion items, Chairperson Silva asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember Michael Beloff and seconded by Councilmember Nicole Milo. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm

Minutes Recorded by:
Wesaneit Tsegai
Executive Secretary
DDS Central Office

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.