

**DDS North Region**  
**Advisory & Planning Council**

January 23, 2013  
Meeting Minutes

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Present: Nancy Bilyak, Deby Godsell, Susan Miller, Jordan Scheff, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Donna Duffy, Joe Duffy, Lori Sandora, Amy Blazawski, Sheryl Kemp

Absent: Sara Glad, Florence Guite, Patti Silva

Introductions were made for the guests of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes were reviewed from the meeting of November 28, 2012. Minutes were accepted as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Scheff explained that we are trying to work on the membership for this committee and are looking to change some of the language of the statutory requirements for membership. He stated that several people have expressed interest in joining the Council including Jennifer Carroll from the CT Family Support Network. Also, Peter Szruba, also from CFSN, has attended several meetings. There has also been some interest from some of the private provider agencies. Provider agencies may attend meetings, however, they cannot be voting members. Sheryl Kemp will also share information about the Council at the upcoming Leadership Forum being held tomorrow with providers.
- Mr. Scheff asked if there were any questions regarding the legislative information that was shared with the Council by Christine Pollio.

It was suggested that either Christine or Rod O'Connor be invited to attend one of the upcoming meetings to discuss any bills that the Council should be aware of. Jordan will follow up.

- It was agreed that the Legislative Breakfast which is usually held in March should be put off possibly until next year after it is determined what the Council membership will look like and what the focus will be.
- Regional Director's Updates –
  - Mr. Scheff reported that the rescissions have been reviewed with the DDS Operations Center and provider feedback has been, for the most part, being planned for. Plans will be submitted by each provider. There are a few exceptions, however, and the Region will be working on plans with those providers. The rescissions should not impact services that are currently being provided such as length of hours for day programs; number of hours will not be cut.

- Respite services (Public) – the NR has reduced the staffing pattern to four days and is now able to cover staffing without incurring the overtime costs that were being used to keep the respite centers open for five days.
- The closure of three Public homes was announced at the beginning of December for this year. These will take place through consolidation with moves either within Public homes or to Private vacancies.
- The Governor will be presenting his budget soon.
- There is a rally being organized on the 30<sup>th</sup> for parents, non-profits, and provider organizations.
- Creative Housing Project –
  - Amy Blazawski spoke about what was discussed at the last meeting. The “world café” model event that was held in the DDS South Region was discussed and it was explained that the North Region would like to begin the planning of a similar type of forum. Amy would like to invite some representatives from outside groups/parent groups such as ARC’s, CADD, and CFSN (CT Family Support Network) or any groups or individuals that Council members may be able to suggest. Amy further explained that we would like to develop an informational flyer to generate some momentum and then we could look at scheduling an event here in the North Region.

The purpose of the event would be to have people share their ideas about new residential options now that the CLA and CRS models are no longer viable options and how to begin to move away from the legacy system that we have now.

The Council was asked to consider other groups and families to share this information with for the first meeting. Amy will email the committee for potential contacts and then a database can begin to be developed of people who will be invited to participate. The location will be determined based on where the responses are received from.

Amy will also share some general information she has about the “world café” model, and also the minutes and Powerpoint presentation from the event held in the South Region.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

***Claudia Neumann***

Claudia Neumann

Executive Secretary