

DDS North Region Regional Advisory Council

April 18, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Rothstein (Chair); Kathleen Tetreault (Vice Chair); Donna Clauson; Donna Cohen; Joe Duffy; Mary Lou O'Connor; Lori Sandora; Tammy Selinger; Elisa Velardo, DDS North Regional Director

Guests: Laurie McKenney

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm.

- Legislative Update –
 - Information regarding DDS-related legislative updates are provided by Rod O'Connor at Central Office. If anyone is interested in being added to the distribution, Rod can be contacted by email at Rod.OConnor@ct.gov.
 - There was discussion regarding the survey that is supposed to be done at the IP meeting. Elisa Velardo shared the survey questions that are asked at the meeting. If a need is identified, that would generate a PRAT request which would be submitted by the case manager. The need would be identified in the IP, and a PRAT request would be submitted. If there is no funding available immediately, it is entered into the database and when funding does become available, the needs would be addressed at that time. The intent of the document was to capture what future needs may be in order to better plan for what may be needed. Clarification is needed regarding whether this is to be an annual survey as part of the IP process, or, as was our understanding, that this is a one-time process for one year.
 - Richard Rothstein reported that three bills from the advocacy groups are being reviewed.
 - SB296 – ARC and DD Council - individuals currently in CLA's will be evaluated as to whether they need that level of care or do not wish to live in a CLA. If not, they will be able to be reviewed for a different model, i.e. CCH or Shared Living. The person could move to a less-expensive setting, and the remaining funds could be used to assist someone else. This has widespread support since it could help with the Waiting List.
 - Families First (2 Bills)
 - 1) SB463 – establishment of a task force for a fairly short timeline to look at how to serve people with deteriorating conditions such as Alzheimer's, behavioral issues, etc.
 - 2) SB400 – intended to make day funding after graduation an entitlement. Some safeguards would be written in so that the funds could not be cut. Also something needs to be written in to ensure that funding would not be taken from somewhere else (i.e. existing day programs). Day funding is already fully funded for next year.
 - There is still some conflicting information regarding the minimum wage bill, which would increase wages gradually to \$15 effective 1/1/21. This is still unfolding.
 - Bi-partisan support to increase salaries for PCA's.
 - A question was raised regarding the provider strike which was to take place which would affect unionized providers. It was reported that as of yesterday, the strike has been postponed until further notice.

- Regional Director's Updates:
 - IDD Partnership funding – Elisa Velardo shared that each region has been authorized to make 20 CCH placements. We have been doing some marketing; using surveys and doing outreach, to people that have indicated an interest in a CCH. CCH brochures have been updated. One is information for families, and one is for potential licensees.
 - We are cautiously optimistic that there is \$5 million included in next year's budget for emergencies. Director Velardo and Thomas Dailey (SR Director) have been holding planning retreats for planning purposes if we do have this funding. They have focused on ideas for how we can prevent emergencies, doing better planning, and building capacity. All aspects of the organization have been involved. Staff from the Business Office, IT, self-advocates, HR, etc., have all been participating. There will be two sessions that will be held to also get input from families and providers. There will be eight groups that will come up with their top two recommendations which will be presented to the Commissioner.
 - Planning for conversions and closures has been taking place. The Public team has been meeting with families. These will occur after July.

- Combined RAC Meeting - Next month the South Region has invited the RACs from the North and the West, as well as the CO Council, to attend a presentation that will be held at the DDS Wallingford Office:

Mid-State Arc will present on provider transformation as the Final Settings Rule approaches from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). This presentation is for individuals and families who are support participants of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and will focus on how providers are anticipating positive changes for individuals and families who receive residential and day supports from private providers funded by DDS.

Date/Time/Location: May 16, 2018, 6-7pm. Department of Developmental Services South Region Office, 35 Thorpe Avenue, Wallingford CT 06492, 3rd Floor, Elm Room.

Claudia will RSVP to the SR for members who indicated they would attend. This meeting will be held as a combined RAC meeting in place of our regularly scheduled May meeting.

- Presentations for Year Ahead - Although May is the last scheduled meeting before the summer, Elisa stated that we would like to plan for future presentations that the Council may be interested in for next year.
 - Kathleen Tetreault has offered to present regarding Special Needs Trusts and how they work to benefit and protect people on Medicaid.
 - Kathleen also shared that she is part of the Creative Housing group in the South Region who will be inviting private providers to talk about what services they provide. The intent is to bring opportunities for people and to connect them to resources. Kathleen will send information to members. It is being held at Camp Harkness on June 14, 2018.

- Other suggestions for presentations were:
 - 1) Dr. Val Bagby-Young, who is now the statewide Director of Nursing for DDS
 - 2) Izabella Pulvermacher, Dental Coordinator for DDS – re: medical/dental referrals
 - 3) Siobhan Morgan, DDS Social Services Medical Admin. Mgr. – DSS/Waiver Information

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the combined meeting on May 16, 2018 at the Wallingford Office.

The following regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary