

DDS North Region
Regional Advisory Council

April 17, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Rothstein (Chair); Kathleen Tetreault (Vice Chair); Donna Clauson; Annette Scully; Elisa Velardo, DDS North Regional Director

Guests: Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner DDS; Amber Burke, DDS; Douglas Lavery; Kim McGath; John Knudsen; Barbara Eddy; Edeline Eddy

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

The meeting began with introductions and Elisa welcomed the guests that have joined us today.

- Regional Director Updates
 - Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason attended today's meeting to share some updates regarding several new DDS initiatives, including Reimagining Day Services, and the ID Partnership which will both include individuals, families, providers, and staff from DDS.
 - We have been looking at innovative business opportunities and grants. The original idea was to assist with franchise fees.
 - Assistive Technology – money has been given to providers to get staff trained to assess what types of technology could possibly be helpful and used in an individual's home.
 - We have begun the process of looking into how accounts in the budget could be combined. Currently the Residential and Day accounts are separate here in CT. There is no other state that has them separate. The goal is to ultimately have the money all together and PRAT would give a single amount of money. Then it could be decided how the money could be best used. It would offer much more flexibility as peoples' needs change.
 - Project Search – sites have been set up; it is a partnership with agencies to provide sites for training to assist with employment. Currently there are six that have been set up.
 - Electronic Face to Face – for individuals that do not like to have staff in their apartment, they could go online and have contact; another piece of exploring more flexibility.
 - The legislature gave us \$5 million for crisis situations to try to help families that are in crisis. We have set up the Step Down Unit in Newington, which is for time-limited stays (90-180 days, maximum). We have also enhanced Family Support teams to have staff that can assist families in their home. A presentation was done with 211 who will do the crisis assessment and then they can reach out directly to our IFS team or they can send out a mobile crises team to do an assessment. All of the IFS workers have been hired and are now working with families. There will also be a Behavioral Health Clinical Manager hired very soon.
 - There has always been difficulty with people needing behavioral support. A Notice of Opportunity for providers will be done which would give providers money to enhance their clinical staff. Providers will also be told that if they are given this money, they need to tell us how it will be used and will need to accept placements.

- Remote Supports – We are just beginning to look into having people who self-direct or live at home be able to have alerts for things such as not eating, taking medication, etc.
- IDASH – 25% of the units in an apartment building (30) that are set aside specifically for people with ID or autism. One provider will provide supports and have staff available to the individuals living in the apartments. Right now we have two. FAVARH will present at the RAC meeting in May.
- There is also a pilot program, through the legislature, to move people from congregate settings to less restrictive settings.

With all of these options, we are looking at more flexibility while there is the opportunity.

- Amber Burke, DDS Director of Employment
 - Amber introduced herself and is here to present about focus on employment. She spoke about work being done to provide opportunities and flexibility. Since she began in November, an MOU has been developed with the Dept. of Labor so we will be able to see where people are working, how many are working, and what they are being paid.
 - Work is being done with the Dept. of Education and DORS and providers on Customized Employment.
 - Work is also being done with the business community, and a meeting has been held with Travelers.
 - Amber shared the Notice of Opportunity application which was recently developed for opportunities for people to start their own businesses. The deadline for the application has been extended to April 26th.
- Legislative Update – most of the bills died in the process, and there are only two left.
 - SB 372: to provide a stipend to guardians who provide services for people who they care for that do not go to day programs.
 - SB 393: calls for revision of the LON system. The providers are very interested in the revision. The process is still being reviewed.
 - SB 63: supported decision-making for an individual to identify a support team instead of guardianship; working on language to make sure safeguards are included.

A statement was made at the end of the meeting by CCH providers that were in attendance. They feel that more communication is needed. They feel left out and that information is not being shared with them. Elisa Velardo stated that she would provide this feedback to the statewide CCH group.

Motion was made to adjourn, and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary

DDS North Region Regional Advisory Council

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

East Hartford Office
5:00 PM

SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	Signature
Donna Clauson	<i>Donna Clauson</i>
Collette Bement Langner	
Ron Langner	
Rick Rothstein	<i>Rick Rothstein</i>
Kathleen Tetreault	<i>Kathleen Tetreault</i>
Elisa Velardo	<i>Elisa Velardo</i>
Claudia Neumann	<i>Claudia Neumann</i>
Annette Scully	<i>Annette Scully</i>
Guests:	
Peter Mason, Deputy Cmr.	<i>Peter Mason</i>
Douglas Lavery	<i>Douglas Lavery</i>
Kim McGrath	<i>Kim McGrath</i>
John Knudsen	<i>John Knudsen</i>
Amber Burke, DDS	<i>Amber Burke</i>
Barbara Eddy	<i>Barbara Eddy</i>
Edeline Eddy	<i>Edeline Eddy</i>