

DDS North Region Regional Advisory Council

February 17, 2021

Meeting Minutes – Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Kathleen Hayes, Vice Chair; Tammy Selinger, Secretary; Donna Clauson; Donna Cohen; Ellyn Little; Kim Little; Mary Lou O'Connor; Lori Sandora; Annette Scully; Tammy Selinger; Elisa Velardo, DDS North Regional Director

Guests: Susan Lucek; Lynne Glode; Pat Stavola

The meeting began at 5:07pm with introductions and brief updates from members.

- Kathleen Hayes shared some information about a project that she has been working on informally to gather information about different housing options that are available in other states. If anyone is interested in helping to gather information, she asked that they contact her by email.
- Pat Stavola shared that she will be holding a virtual day services provider forum for providers to present about their services. A forum next month will be held regarding summer camps.
- Regional Director's Update – Elisa Velardo
 - Vaccines – Connecticut is now solidly into phase 1b for people who live in congregate settings (CLA's and CRS's). More people are now getting access to the vaccine. DDS is still trying to provide clear, accurate information so people can make the choice to get the vaccine. Staff in residential settings have really stepped up to continue to provide services. Clinics were being held in the DDS offices, however, will not be continued. Staff can now schedule the vaccine through community clinics. It will then be expanded to more groups of staff, such as clinical staff. Began with those 75 and older, now is at 65 and older which has helped with individuals who are living in CCHs that have not been able to get vaccinated as part of the congregate setting group.
 - Appendix K Update – Appendix K has allowed some to provide services at home. DDS has continued to work with DSS to submit for an extension. The submission should happen before the end of the month. CMS has been granting extensions for up to six months after the federal public health emergency ends. It is supposed to end on 3/16 so hopefully it will be resolved before then. Elisa will check with Krista Ostaszewski, DSS Liaison, regarding how long the turn-around time will be.
 - IDASH – Bear Woods in Canton was the first IDASH program to open. There have been many media outlets that have done stories about the opening. All the moves have taken place and have gone well. There are 10 apartments that are 1-, 2-, or 3-bedroom units. The other 75% are fair market.

The second program will be in Bloomfield which is supposed to be open in late Spring, depending on the inspection schedule.

HARC – Asylum Hill is a partnership with Chrysalis that is working to restore historical buildings. They will be all IHS. The other two IDASH programs have two 24-hour apartments, the HARC program will not, however, they may have overnight staff if needed.

Talks are beginning for a program in the West Hartford area with CRI, however meetings have not begun yet.

Clustered IHS (intermittent support a few hours a week) – clustered would be a couple people living near one another that would share supports and there would be a staff available overnight. Similar to IDASH but does not involve the Dept. of Housing. Any provider could do clustered IHS. It is not as big of an investment as IDASH for the provider, however, people do have to have funding. Providers for each area are listed on the DDS website.

- Supported Employment – An employment meeting was held today with Amber Burke where resources were shared as well as strategies to support employment if numbers begin to come down. This will be an ongoing meeting.
- Nomination of Officers –
Chair – A motion was made to nominate Kathleen Hayes. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The vote was unanimously approved.

Vice Chair – Annette Scully was nominated for Vice Chair. She agreed to consider the position. The vote will be tabled until next month's meeting.
- There were no topics for Open Participation.

A motion for adjournment was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th at 5:00pm by virtual teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Neumann
Executive Secretary