

**DDS North Region**  
**Regional Advisory Council**

March 17, 2021

Meeting Minutes – Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

Guests: Pat Stavola

Meeting called to order at 5:10pm.

- Legislative Update –
  - Not a lot of new proposals; there were three that were not supported.
  - Kathleen shared about the Supported Decision-Making Coalition. Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to Guardianship that builds on the concept of natural supports. Can be informal or formal with an actual signed contract that identifies support. At this point it is not legislative; the coalition is working on a handbook to share with schools. The first goal is education and then legislation. Kathleen was asked if she would do a presentation at one of the RAC meetings and Elisa would also like to include others from DDS as well as the other RACs.
- Regional Director's Update
  - 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. It would be extended to six months after the public health emergency ends. Although the original program ended on 3/15, it would be retroactive so current arrangements can continue. The extension would be approved for certain circumstances. People currently using Appendix K should work with their case manager.
  - Updated Visitation Guidelines – Elisa shared the guidelines that were updated to reflect the current CDC guidelines. This information was shared with providers and case managers and is also available on the website.
  - Vaccine Rollout – still in the 55 and over eligibility; as of Friday it will go to 45+, and then to 16+ on 4/5. Some specialized clinics will be offered for individuals with IDD to allow easier access as quickly as possible. Locations are being identified across the state. People will be notified when they are identified and dates have been set.
  - Assistive Technology NOO – all have been awarded; 124 individuals that received grants for AT.
  - IDASH – Bear Woods in Canton was the first IDASH program to open. Bloomfield should open by late May for 19. HARC – Asylum Hill will be later. Also, CRI is working on a program for 2022 (not IDASH).
  - Respite – should be re-opening beginning around 7/1 and will open in phases. Not all programs will open at the same time.
  - Planning committee for re-opening of day programs has been meeting. Amber Burke and Fritz Gorst are leading the committee. Planning has been occurring.
- IP Forms – Rick had asked about forms that were used as part of the IP to identify what people's upcoming needs may be. Elisa explained that the forms were developed in 2017 and were only used that one year while the new IP was being developed. Now that information should be included in the IP and if there is a need, the case manager can submit a PRAT request at any time. By generating the PRAT requests, all the information that is submitted is then tracked in the PRAT database which can then be used for any initiatives that are made available.
- Officer Nomination – Annette Scully was nominated for the position of Vice Chair. Annette accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded; vote for Annette Scully for Vice Chair was unanimous.
- Elisa thanked Rick Rothstein for all of his time that he served as Chairperson.

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

Respectfully submitted,

***Claudia Neumann***  
Executive Secretary