

**DDS-South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2013**

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Jean Brookman, Carol Cooney, Michael Del Sole, Jeff DePina, April Dipollina, Susan Gardner, Lauralyn Lewis, and Thomas Dailey, Regional Director, DDS South Region.

**Members Absent:** Diane Martin, Lori Richardson, and Danielle Shepard

**Guest:** Kathy Whitbread, Presenter

**Chairperson's Report**

- **Call to Order** – Vice Chair Brookman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- **Public Comment** – None presented.
- **Council Inquiries** – Council members raised inquiries on the LON, staff training, respite center cuts, and consumers living out of state as related to the waitlist. A new LON manual will be issued soon. Once issued, the Regional Director's office will forward a copy of it to the Council.
- **Review of Minutes** - A review ensued of the November 14, 2012, meeting minutes.

*In the presence of a quorum and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012, meeting as presented.*

**Regional Director's Report**

- **Budget** – Mr. Dailey reviewed the year to date budget for FYE June 2013. DDS is doing what it can to minimize the impact of budget reductions on essential services. Strategies include changing the FI payment schedule, delaying STS community placements, limiting approval of provider requests for one time funding related to damage from Storm Sandy, and reducing state funded services through individual budgets. The department will also have to remove from providers residential funding for people permanently admitted to skilled nursing facilities. The public sector cannot sustain further cuts.
- **Secure Website** – DDS has established for providers a secure website for referral packets. This should help expedite residential development.
- **Quality Improvement** – DDS is making changes to its quality review processes with an eye toward streamlining it. Licensing will be replaced by the quality service review at the end of the fiscal year.
- **Annual Reporting** – Annual reporting requirements for providers are being revised in an effort to reduce reporting requirements. The annual reports reflect how providers spend their funding. DDS uses this information for legislative reporting.

- **PRC** – Changes to the Program Review Committee (PRC) process are being explored. The Director of Health Services for the SR will be invited to attend an upcoming Council meeting to share the results and recommendations of the recently concluded PRC Pilot Program.
- **URR** – Providers will be surveyed on DDS’ Utilization Resource Review (URR) process. Utilization Resource Reviews are conducted high cost individuals to insure individuals funding levels are appropriate.
- **Forum on Recovery** – On December 12, 2012, the SR, in conjunction with Dungarvin of Connecticut, LLC and Continuum of Care, Inc., hosted a forum on recovery to provide a platform for discussing the many challenges of supporting individuals with addiction issues. The region plans to hold forums on A/N Prevention and Sexual offender issues next.
- **DCF Budget Option** – Through a budget option, DCF proposed, and OPM accepted, the transfer of 108 individuals from DCF to DDS services. 32 of these individuals will be served in the SR. Each region is requesting approval to hire a case manager for this population. Resources will be transferred to DDS from DCF.

### Miscellaneous Updates

Member Dipollina announced the following:

- On January 30, 2013, the nonprofit community will hold the Rally to Protect the Safety Net in response to previous budget rescissions and the ever growing pressure on providers to do more with less. The Arc New London County will have a bus leaving for Hartford at 7:15am. Contact the Arc to reserve your seat.
- On behalf of the Connecticut Family Support Council, Member Dipollina invited Council members to attend the CT Family Support Council’s annual legislative Meet and Great in February – date TBD. This annual event is a great opportunity to meet with legislators and share your thoughts and concerns.

### Old Business

- **2012-2013 Council Priorities Update**
  - **Creative Housing** – Member Dipollina reported on the establishment of an ongoing parent workgroup in the eastern part of the region. The workgroup’s first meeting went very well. The Creative Housing Sub-committee is closing in on a date for a Café to Go in the western part of the region. It is likely the event will take place in February at The Branford Holiday Inn. Hopefully the event will spawn the development of a second parent workgroup.
  - **Education and Outreach** - Member Dipollina noted that she is sharing this sub-committee’s letter within her networks.

Because of RAC’s continued interest in education and outreach to families, Ms. Kathy Whitbread was invited to the meeting to share information on how to start an on-line community.

Ms. Whitbread reviewed the features of the following on-line communities:

- Facebook
- NING
- Wiggio
- Yahoo Groups
- Blogs
- Twitter
- Beam Your Screen

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Whitbread offered her assistance in setting up a site, if needed.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is March 20, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at the Henry Carter Hull Library, Clinton, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

### **Adjournment**

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.*

Minutes Recorded by:  
Jolie Crescimano-Goss  
Executive Secretary, DDS-SR

