

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2015**

Members Present: Chair Carol Cooney, Jean Brookman, David Cassano, Jeff DePina, Susan Gardner, Britney Gudeahn, Steve Harney, Lauralyn Lewis, Diane Martin, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Guest Present: Denise Tift

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, Executive Secretary, DDS South

Call to Order: Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Citizen Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes: Review ensued of the June 17, 2015, meeting minutes. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2015, meeting.*

Chairperson's Report

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update:** The first workgroup meeting following summer break was held on September 9. Member Lewis presented an overview of the Creative Housing Workgroup and its accomplishments and activities. The Workgroup's plans for the future and activities scheduled for the coming year were also discussed. The Workgroup continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month, from 6-8p.m., at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. Meetings are open to the public. Note: October's meeting is canceled, so families have an opportunity to attend other events during the month.

Member Gardner discussed how her family came to develop a shared living arrangement for her family member through her involvement with the Creative Housing Workgroup. The Council recommended she document her story, so it could be shared with others.

Administrative Updates

- Regional Director Thomas Dailey provided updates on the following topics and answered questions posed by the Council:
 - DDS' new organizational chart
 - Behavior Services Program (BSP formerly VSP)
 - Budget
 - FY15 Grads
 - Rate Guidelines
 - TYZE
 - CCH Program
 - DDS Safe Eating Campaign
 - Draft Special Education Guidelines for case managers and families
 - Camp Harkness

New Business

- **Executive Board Elections:** Executive board elections were made as follows:
 - Chair – Steve Harney
 - Vice Chair – Carol Cooney
 - Secretary – Susan Gardner

In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the election of Steve Harney, Carol Cooney, and Susan Gardner to the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively for a term of one year effective this day, September 16, 2015.

- **2016 Council Goals & Priorities:** Following discussion, the Council identified the following goal for the coming year:
 - Enhance communications among stakeholders

Suggestions for meeting this goal included:

- Facilitate a statewide meeting of all RACs
- Invite directors of pupil services to RAC meetings in their region
- Advertise RAC meetings in the DDS South Recreation Newsletter
- Develop and distribute an RAC informational flyer for case managers to share with families to include, among other things, that the RAC was created by the CT General Assembly in 1973 as a gift to all DDS families
- Enhance RAC page on the DDS website
- Develop a public service video announcement about the RAC (starring an RAC member) for the DDS website
- Market the RAC on the Helpline voicemail message

Next Meeting Date: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is November 18, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook, 2nd. Fl. Conf. Rm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jolie Crescimano-Goss
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Executive Secretary