

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2020
6:00 PM
(via Teleconference)**

Members Participating: Chair Leslie Bridges-Parent, Lynn Arezzini, Robin Brewer, David Cassano, Carol Cooney, Heidi Earle, Erin McGuire, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Public Participation: Ms. Kate Haaland

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS Executive Secretary

Chairperson's Report:

- **Call to Order and Introductions** – Chair Bridges-Parent called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Following, all made introductions.
- **Citizen Remark** – Ms. McGuire expressed her appreciation for her appointment to the Council. Ms. Haaland is listening in on tonight's Council meeting. She is a parent and is interested in becoming a Council member.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the May 2020, meeting.*
- **Field Activity Report** – Deferred.

Regional Director's Updates:

- Office update – Office restrictions remain in place; telework on-going to the extent possible.
- FY21 Budget – TBD. Anticipate funding graduates, age-outs, and emergencies.
- DDS Stepdown Unit – At full capacity.
- DDS Transitional Stepdown Unit – On hold for budget forecast.
- DDS Emergency Transitional Housing Program (3) – One program is up and running; the other two (Norwich and Wilton sites) are on hold for budget forecast.
- DDS Reopening plans are coming together and being released one at a time.
- DDS anticipates roll out and implementation of Phase 1 of reopening employment and day service around July 15, 2020.
- All COVID related updates can be found on the DDS website.

Council Open Discussion Topics: Director Dailey responded to numerous Council member inquiries regarding reopening plans. Topics included visitation decisions and protocols, portability, PPE and providers, ramifications of keeping someone home from day program beyond reopening, Appendix K criteria, and transportation considerations and challenges.

Council members shared positive feedback on provider outreach both virtually and by phone. It has made a world of difference for some individuals.

New Business: The Council will continue to meet monthly during the pandemic. The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2020, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region

Next Meeting: July 15, 2020 / 6:00 PM / Teleconference