

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met via Conference Call on Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair
Diana Mennone
Eugene Harvey, STS Director

Excused: Mark Cooper

Eileen Lemay, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Report on DDS Council Meetings

Presented by Diana Mennone to the STS Board of Trustees on March 30, 2021.

A report was given by Diana Mennone, STS Board of Trustees member on the Council on Developmental Services meetings held on November 18, 2020, December 17, 2020, January 28, 2021. All meetings were held virtually.

The November meeting included attendance by all the South, West and North Regional Advisory and Planning Councils (RACs). Emphasis for their meetings in 2020 was on COVID-19 and like the DDS Council meetings they have pivoted to a virtual platform.

At all Council meetings Commissioner Jordan Scheff and DDS leadership have given COVID-19 updates and the latest information on vaccine distribution. Direct care DDS staff and ICF/IID residents were included in phase 1a priority access. There was an uptick in cases during this quarter and more recently a leveling off. The Commissioner serves on a Communications subcommittee for vaccine distribution. Concern about apprehension among staff regarding getting vaccinated and need to centralize communication was expressed by Council members.

Representative Jason Rojas and House Minority Leader Representative Vincent Candelora joined the January meeting. They thanked the Council for their work and advocacy. There was an acknowledgement of the need to find services that meet the needs of individuals and they are happy to be a partner in this process. They look forward to continued conversations.

The agenda for this year's legislative session is similar to last years. Topics to include the Abuse & Neglect Registry system, implications of \$15.00 minimum wage for the provider community. By eliminating a sub-minimum wage, there will be people who will not be able to gain competitive employment. Currently we do not have next biennium package. Budget options are posted on the website.

The Council would like to hold a virtual Legislative event like in previous years. A committee will meet to draft ideas.

Trends and figures pertaining to COVID positivity among staff and individuals are posted on the DDS website and updated daily (Mon-Fri).

<https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/General/Covid19/DDS-COVID-19-Figures-and-Trends>

To view complete Council on Developmental Disabilities minutes, go to the State of CT DDS website:

[ct.gov/dds](https://portal.ct.gov/dds) - click on BOARDS and COUNCILS, click on COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, scroll down & click on 2020 or 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE (AGENDA & MINUTES). Scroll down to find dates of MEETINGS; see AGENDA columns and MINUTES columns to the right. Scroll down further to view previous years' MEETING SCHEDULE / AGENDAS / MINUTES.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Our current population is 147. One individual will be moving into his new home in the community on April 13, 2021.
- We were doing well regarding the Covid-19 virus. We have no one in our isolation units.
- Previously any individual that had gone to a hospital had to go to our PUI unit. Now after an individual has been fully vaccinated and has to go to the hospital for any reason will not have to go to a PUI unit upon their return to STS.
- All but two individuals have received both vaccinations. One of these individuals will be receiving it soon and the other individual's guardian has said they do not want their loved one to receive the vaccination.
- If a staff has been fully vaccinated and have been exposed to Covid they can still come to work.
- If a fully vaccinated individual has been exposed, they will be quarantined.
- If an individual is fully vaccinated and gets Covid they will be quarantined for two weeks.
- 60% of the STS staff have been vaccinated.
- Some individuals are going to Day Programs in Cottage 6, STS Greenhouse, Thrift Shop I and II.
- Some community trips to go to parks have been approved. Trips to stores must be approved by a manager.
- The Dental Clinic has reopened as well as the medical clinic.
- All staff must wear KN95 masks. If there is a question on whether a staff has had a Covid exposure they must then wear a N95 mask. STS has plenty of masks to meet all our needs.
- STS is looking into a low-pressure boiler. Our current boiler has a rating of 250 psi, then it goes to 30 psi and by the time it reaches the buildings its 10 psi. The power house is currently manned 24 hours a day. A contractor came to STS to look at possibly installing a low-pressure boiler. The new low-pressure boiler could save a substantial amount of money.
- STS could not close a building last year due to Covid. This year we may be closing two buildings. These closures will be announced in April. Closure process will be different this time because of Covid. Staff will receive their permanent assignments before our individuals move to their new STS homes.
- Eugene Harvey was asked when STS will be looking at a visitation schedule. When can there be family visits when the entire family has been vaccinated? STS will look at each requested visit individually.

OLD BUSINESS

Waiting to get approval from the Governor's Office officially placing Sandy O'Neil on the Board of Trustees. Eugene Harvey will follow up on approval.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 1:00pm via conference call.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees