

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met in Person and on Teams, Monday, January 22, 2024**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair
Mark Cooper, Secretary
Diana Mennone
Kathryn Hanewicz, STS Director
Sandy O'Neil
Lee Ellen Chontos

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES report to STS BOT 1-22-24

A report was given by Diana Mennone, STS Board of Trustees representative for the DDS Council on Developmental Services covering meetings held virtually on October 19, 2023 and November 30, 2023.

Commissioner Scheff updated the Council on the continued forums and virtual updates with stakeholders around the state. He attended the NASDDDS (National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services) conference in November 2023 and he also addressed the RACs (Regional Advisory Councils) at a joint annual meeting with the Council on Developmental Services that same month.

Each Advisory Council shared information on similar topics including the STEP initiative (Supporting Transformation to Empower People). ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), the housing shortage, new membership redevelopment and participation from the public.

The DDS Council gave a report to the RACs sharing that the Council had testified before the legislature on the state budget, House Bill 5001 and on the reappointment of Commissioner Scheff.

The Council also participated in many of the same presentations as the RACs. Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson reported on families who have been struggling to find support for their family members with high levels of need. She will update the Council on progress in options being explored.

To view complete Council on Developmental Services minutes, go to the State of CT DDS website <https://www.ct.gov/dds> - click on BOARDS and COUNCILS, click on COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, scroll down and click on Upcoming and Past MEETING SCHEDULE (AGENDA & MINUTES / VIDEOS). 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 and/or VIDEO RECORDINGS.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Our current population is 113.
- The Department of Public Health was in Cottage 40 for a survey last week. They received an excellent review.
- All clinical positions are filled. OT position has been filled and Phyllis will stay for 3 months to train. Case Management Supervisor position has been filled. Dentist position has posted in addition to collaborating with UCONN. New Charge started in Cottage 34. Nursing staff is good, 4 LPNs have been hired and an offer was made for the RN position still available.
- COVID status is good. DPH sent out suggestions for mask wear.
- Discussion on the telephones at STS and what needs to be done to stabilize the system. Emergency phones are working.
- Discussion on communication between guardians and community hospital providers.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board nominations for 2024 were approved as follows:

Eileen Lemay as Chair; Ann Dougherty as Vice Chair; Mark Cooper as Secretary; and Diana Mennone as representative for the DDS Council on Developmental Services.

The Board discussed the need to fill the vacant position on the Board. Eileen sent an email to Tom Scanlon on Anthony Mennone's recommendation as a candidate for joining the Board. Mr. Scanlon reviewed the request but unfortunately found it would not be appropriate for both Anthony and his wife to serve on the Board concurrently. Diana recommended Phyllis Zimmer as a candidate and will reach out to her. The Board discussed asking someone from the Town of Southbury. Mark will reach out to Jeffrey Manville, First Selectman, to see if he is interested. Diana and Lee Ellen will review STS Guardians for potential Board members.

The next STS Board of Trustees meeting will be an in person and Teams meeting on April 22, 2024 at 1:00pm.

There being no further business, Eileen Lemay called to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Boccardi, Recording Secretary
Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees