

MINUTES

State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services West Region - Advisory Council Meeting

May 14, 2009

In attendance:

Mickey Herbst, Lisa Schwab, Gil Kellersman, Arlene Steinfeld, Alec Vlahos, Fritz Gorst Ex-Officio Member

Excused:

John Gibson, Jeanne Braude-Magi, Mark Cooper

Regional Director's Updates

Budget Update – Mr. Gorst shared a budget update. The state budget continues to suffer from the current economic climate. As a result, the Governor has instructed state agencies to continue to save on costs by curtailing purchases to those that are strictly necessary. There have been cancellations of certain contracts, a hiring freeze and union concessions (i.e. increases in medical benefit payments, furlough days, etc), vehicle fleet reduction and vehicle usage reduction put into place. These cutbacks are expected to help close the budget gap. Presently, the region awaits final word on the budget and we need to wait to see what sort of impact it will have on our department.

Since a retirement incentive program has been offered, there will be a reduction in staffing. Retiring staff will be leaving by the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2009). DDS will determine the redistribution of staffing as necessary (i.e. case management/caseloads will be redistributed).

By-Laws

Mr. Gorst distributed information referencing the statutes and regulations for councils, boards, and committees. This document was shared by Christine Pollio as a reminder to all groups in the state. Members were asked to familiarize themselves with the requirements and bring any questions or points of discussion to the next meeting.

Nomination of Officers

- Membership (old/new) – The group decided that they will look for members and provide names to the region. Fritz will also ask case management supervisors if there are any families that might be interested in serving on the Council. The information received will be reviewed at the next meeting
 - The group discussed present membership. The members that have not been in attendance will be sent a letter asking them whether or not they are willing to continue serving on the Council. Those not willing to continue serving should submit a letter of resignation to the Council.
- Membership Terms – reviewed
- Appointment of Officers - will vote at next meeting

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Council Request

Members of the Council requested that for the next meeting we have someone speak on the new rate system.

Fritz will invite a DDS staff to the next meeting for this purpose.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 5:00 pm – 250 Freight Street, Waterbury, CT