

Advisory Council Meeting
October 17, 2019
4:00 pm
Ella Grasso Center, Stratford, CT

Minutes

Members Present

Susan Bastien, Lori Chiapinello, Marina Derman (Vice Chair), Gil Kellersman, Roger McNealy, Karen Simon, Arlene Steinfeld

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETINGS MINUTES –

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the Minutes of September 19, 2019.

3. GUEST SPEAKER –

Pam Fields, Mid-State ARC gave a presentation on Assistive Technology. This technology allows individuals with barriers the opportunity to live more independently. She shared that there are a variety of people that use technology every day to assist them with daily needs. As a result, these individuals are able to live more independent lives. A handout: “The Assisted Technology Training Center of Connecticut” was distributed to the group along with a copy of her PowerPoint presentation. The presentation outlines technology that is available to people who want to live at home that could benefit from assistance with daily needs (taking medications, cooking, etc.).

She explained that assistive technology is a huge cost savings and allows for more individuals to be served when dollars can be redirected to other individuals. She gave a few examples of individuals who moved from group homes into their own apartments outfitted with assistive technology. A short video was also shown.

Several consumers have had much success with this model. Each person is individually assessed for their needs and the assistive technology is customized to that particular person. Mrs. Field’s spoke about a variety of different things used to help people (i.e. cameras, alarms, etc.). All of these gadgets are highlighted in the handout that she distributed. A copy of the handouts is on file.

The Technology Center offers classes every month to providers to show them how the technology works and how they could use it for the individuals that they support.

There was some discussion on human rights issues. There was concern about a person’s privacy; however, the individuals that participate in this model want to live independently and have agreed

to use this technology as part of their daily lives. Pam said that their Human Resources office has protections in place to ensure that video monitoring is not occurring outside of the parameters that have been prescribed as a protection of an individual's privacy.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT –

- None

5. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Simon reported that she has attempted to get interest in her sub-committee, but has not had much luck thus far. She will continue to try to pull something together.

6. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

- Employment Reimagining Focus Groups: A handout was distributed that contains the dates for the family focus group meetings that will be taking place statewide. Amber Burke (Director of Employment and Day Services) will be speaking about Day Services. Fritz encouraged the membership to attend of the sessions.
- Position Refill - Fritz shared that he chaired the first interviews for the refill of the Director of Family Services Strategy (former incumbent, Robin Wood) position. Six names were put forward and the position is expected to be filled soon.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT –

- None.

8. NEXT MEETING –

The next meeting will be held on November 21 at 5:00 p.m. at the Wallingford Office, Elm Room. This will take the place of the November 14th meeting and complies with the statute to have one statewide meeting the statewide Council on Developmental Services

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council adjourned the meeting at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eunice B. Rivera
Executive Secretary
DDS West Region