

**Advisory Council Meeting  
January 16, 2020  
4:00 pm  
Ella Grasso Center, Stratford, CT**

**Minutes**

**Members Present**

Susan Bastien, Charles Bergamo, Lori Chiapinello, Marina Derman (Vice Chair), Roger McNealy, Karen Simon, Arlene Steinfeld, Cindy Stramandinoli

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETINGS MINUTES –

***Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2019.***

3. REVIEW CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR

The 2020 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar was reviewed. There will be no meeting in February (February was a snow date in case January was cancelled due to snow or no quorum). The RAC will meet in March 19, 2020.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT –

Mr. Bergamo shared that he did not have a Developmental Council Meeting report to share as he was unable to attend that meeting.

He did share that he was told by his case manager that a family member cannot be a paid caregiver. He researched the DDS website and found the policy on "Family Hires" from the DDS Manual. A copy was shared with the RAC and is on file. He did determine that a family member can in fact be paid; however, they cannot be a guardian to the individual that they are a paid to provide care for. There was some discussion on individuals under 18 and how families can get paid to provider supports to those individuals.

Mr. Bergamo shared that the DDS website is very helpful and is a good resource to families that may have questions about DDS services and supports.

5. OLD BUSINESS –

Ms. Simon shared that she is still concerned that families are having difficulty finding adequate caregivers that are properly trained to work with individuals.

Fritz shared that we have approved Goods and Services providers that can assist families through the Fiscal Intermediary in hiring staff. They candidates will be interviewed and vetted to be a direct hire for a family looking for staff.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Derman shared that the ARC is conducting several workshops for individuals that are interesting in "Successor Planning". This workshop is for families that are concerned about who will be taking over after they are no longer around to be the guardian or caregiver for their loved ones. There will be a statewide series offered. The information will be emailed to the Advisory Council. The first workshop is being held on January 23, 2019 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at 58 Post Road East, Westport. Copy of flyer on file.
- Ms. Steinfeld inquired if it would be ok to add another RAC member to the group. There is concern that adding another individual would make it difficult to reach a quorum. Ms. Steinfeld shared the name of the individual and asked that it be considered should we need someone to join the group. Name of individual on file.

## 7. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

- The next budget session will be from February 4, 2020 to March 11, 2020
- Ken Cabral has been hired to replace Robin Wood as the new Director of Family Services Strategy. He can be reached by email at [kenneth.cabral@ct.gov](mailto:kenneth.cabral@ct.gov) or 860-418-6035. His office is located at 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.
- Dr. Brooke Lloyd has been hired to replace Dr. Man Liu as the new Clinical Director for the West Region. Dr. Lloyd can be reached at [brooke.lloyd@ct.gov](mailto:brooke.lloyd@ct.gov). Her phone number is 203-805-7415. She is located at 55 West Main Street, Waterbury (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).
- There will be a Respite Center in the South Region (Middletown) that will operate 365 days per year 24 hours per day. This is open to all individuals served by DDS across the state. There was a question on any restrictions that individuals may have that may not meet the criteria for a stay. Mr. Gorst will inquire and report back to the RAC.

There is a list of all respite centers on the DDS website.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/Respite/General/Frequently-Asked-Questions>

- Fritz provided an update on the Step Down Unit (SDU). The SDU is located in Newington. There have been 10 individuals that have had a 3-6 month stay at the SDU and have successfully returned to their prior living arrangement.
- New Clinical Response Team – The DDS provider known as I.C.E.S. will be offering supports to agencies that may be having difficulty with individuals' behavior plans. This support is meant to serve as an enhancement to services currently in place. It is a resource available to providers.
- Wilton Home – this home is still out for bid. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is in the process for the Wilton home. A provider selected to cover this home will be paid 12 months out of the year

whether the home is occupied with a consumer(s) or not. However, if the Regional Director makes a last minute request for a consumer placement that agency will need to be readily available to house that individual(s). This is one of the criteria for the agency that is selected. A team will be reviewing the proposals that have been received and deciding on which agency will be selected.

- The census at Southbury Training School (STS) is 162. Fritz shared that there is an idea that has been presented to build a handicapped accessible home for anyone that may be interested in moving out of STS into that home. This is a joint effort with DSS. It was suggested that families be provided an opportunity to give input on what the house may have which might make the home more appealing to a family that is interested in moving their loved one out of STS.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT –

None

9. NEXT MEETING –

The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., 300 Armory Road, Stratford

ADJOURNMENT

***Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council adjourned the meeting at 5:15pm.***

Respectfully submitted by:

Eunice B. Rivera  
Executive Secretary  
DDS West Region