

DDS Legislative Update – February 21, 2015

The Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Years (FY) 2016 and 2017

The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal years 2016 (FY16) and 2017 (FY17) was released on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. Below are links to two budget documents. As soon as the DDS Budget-in-Detail is available from the Office of Policy and Management, we will post that link as well.

[Department of Developmental Services Budget Summary](#)

[Governor's Proposed Budget for FY16 and FY17](#)

[Department of Developmental Services Budget-in-Detail](#)

The Governor's proposed two-year budget is just the beginning of the budget process. All sections of this proposed budget will be given public hearings in the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations and the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees will pass their version of a budget in by late April or early May. Then the Governor and the legislature will negotiate a consensus budget that must be passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

Information on the Appropriations Committee Public Hearings on the Governor's Proposed Budget

The General Assembly's Appropriations Committee will hold public hearings on the various parts of the Governor's proposed FY 16/FY17 budget the weeks of February 23rd and March 2nd. **The public hearing for the Health section of the budget which includes the DDS budget is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2015 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building.** The schedule for that Friday includes a budget presentation by DDS beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Room 2C of the LOB. **Below is a schedule of state agency budget presentations for March 6th.**

Friday, March 6, 2015 Health Budget (Room 2C)

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Department of Public Health

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Department of Developmental Services

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. LUNCH RECESS

1:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Department of Veterans' Affairs

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

4:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Psychiatric Security Review Board

4:30 P.M. Public Budget Hearings on Health Agencies' Budgets (Room 2C)

Below is information from the Appropriations Committee on the when, where and how of sign-up and testifying before the committee. Please note (highlighted below) that our friends on the Appropriations Committee have made accommodations for persons with disabilities and their families for the February 27th and March 6th public hearings. Also highlighted below is the e-mail address of the Appropriations Committee if you just want to submit written testimony.

The Appropriations Committee will hold state agency budget presentations and public hearings from **Tuesday, February 24, 2015** through **Friday, March 6, 2015**, to be held at the times and locations listed in the Bulletin. Public speaker order for the public hearings will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB and from 10:15 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. in Room 2700 of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. The list of speakers registered through the lottery system will be posted outside the designated hearing room two hours prior to the start of the public hearing. **On February 27th and March 6th the Committee will provide a separate sign-up sheet for persons with special needs and on Tuesday, March 3rd, a separate sign-up sheet will be provided for students. Those speakers will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis. The Committee Chairs will alternate between the specialized lists and the standard list until the specialized lists have been exhausted.** Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. Please submit 30 copies of written testimony at the time of sign-up, but not later than 2:00 P.M. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and will be indexed by internet search engines. **For the February 24th and March 6th public hearings, Room 2D of the LOB will be reserved for individuals with special needs who need a quiet space while waiting to testify.** Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee.

Complete budget hearing information is at:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/app/special/Budget%20Hearing%20Schedule.pdf>

DDS Agency Bill Is Now a Raised Bill before the Public Health Committee

H.B. No. 6815 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION AND USE OF THE TERM "INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY", to replace the obsolete term "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability".

Link to the DDS Legislative Affairs Webpage

<http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=2039&q=394202>