

DDS Legislative Update – February 5, 2016

New Session Began February 3, 2016 and Ends May 4, 2016

The 2016 legislative session began on February 3rd and ends on May 4th at midnight. This year's session is called a "short" session which occurs in even numbered years. The main task of the General Assembly in a short session is to make adjustments to the two-year budget for the state passed in the previous year's long session. **The budget adjustments will be made to the fiscal year (FY) 2017 portion of the two year budget that covers state appropriations and revenues from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.** Besides adjusting the budget, House and Senate members will work to pass bills that are "raised" by legislative committees based on input from various constituencies and executive branch agencies like DDS.

All bills must have a public hearing before they can be voted on and move forward. **Public hearings are where Connecticut citizens have their voices heard on the range of issues that the legislature will be working on during this session.** For the Department of Developmental Services and the individuals and families that receive supports and services from DDS, the public hearings of the Appropriations Committee, the Public Health Committee and the Human Services Committee are very important.

Appropriations Committee Public Hearings and DDS Budget Presentation

The Appropriations Committee will hold state agency budget presentations and public hearings on **Thursday, February 18, 2016** for Health Agencies that include the **Department of Developmental Services (DDS).** **The public hearing on February 18th will begin at 4:30 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building (LOB).** The **Department of Developmental Services (DDS)** also will give a **budget presentation** to the Appropriations Committee from **2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on February 18, 2016 in Room 2C of the LOB.**

The Appropriations Committee also will hold state agency budget presentations and public hearings on **Thursday, February 11, 2016** for Human Services Agencies such as the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The public hearing on February 11th will begin at 4:00 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building (LOB).

Below are the **rules for testifying** before the Appropriations Committee. **Please note** that for both the Health Agencies public hearing and the Human Services Agencies public hearing, **the Appropriations Committee makes accommodations for persons with special needs and their families.**

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 LOB First Floor Atrium and from 10:15 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. in Room 2700. 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 11th and February 18th the Committee will provide a separate sign-up sheet for persons with special needs. 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. **For the February 18th public hearing, Room 2B will be reserved for individuals with special needs in need of a quiet space while waiting to testify.**

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. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee.

Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustments Fiscal Year 2017

On the 2016 session's opening day, February 3, 2016, Governor Malloy addressed the General Assembly and detailed his midterm budget adjustments for fiscal year 2017. Below is the link to the webpage for the **Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustments** and links to the various sections of the budget adjustment document. The pages on which DDS information is available are shown next to the links. Also, below is a PDF link to the two page DDS budget summary from the budget adjustment document.

GOVERNOR'S MIDTERM BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2017

<u>SECTION A: FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>	DDS Pages A-29 and A-30
<u>SECTION B: BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	DDS Pages B-60 and B-61
<u>SECTION C: PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS</u>	DDS Page C-10
<u>SECTION D: CAPITAL PROGRAM</u>	DDS Page D-9

DDS MIDTERM BUDGET ADJUSTMENT SUMMARY FY17

DDS Legislative Proposals for 2016

DDS submitted four draft legislative proposals for review this year. The four proposals have been reviewed and can be found on the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) website at <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2961&Q=573316&PM=1>. Also, on this OPM webpage are the budget options that DDS submitted at the request of OPM.

If the Public Health Committee allows DDS to go forward with our one legislative proposal, we will post it to the Legislative Affairs website at:

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

Links to the General Assembly and Legislative Committees

[Connecticut General Assembly](#)

[Appropriations Committee](#)

[Public Health Committee](#)

[Human Services Committee](#)

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