

*STATE OF CONNECTICUT OR*

EDWARD R. MAMBRUNO



for Developmental Services

*DDS Council Monthly Report*



**Ned Lamont**  
*Governor*

**Jordan Scheff**  
*Commissioner*

***June 2019***

**Personnel contacted**

Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Case Manager Supervisors, Case Managers, Quality Management Director, QI Supervisors, Abuse/Neglect Director and/or liaisons and Division heads if I needed specific additional info regarding the issues and concerns of individuals who contacted my office.

In addition, I spoke with other contacts at agencies eg. DCF, Public Health, DSS and the Client Rights and Grievance Specialist, Office of the Commissioner DMHAS.

**MEETINGS**

New England ADA Center, Director of ADA Training and Assistance

Council on Developmental Disabilities

DORS CDHI met regarding interpreters.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Client Rights and Grievance Specialist

Quarterly Private Provider Meeting

Meeting with members of Deaf community to go over issues

Met with Training department to go over ADA PowerPoint presentation

Met with University of Hartford, Doctoral PT students.

Meeting with members of Deaf and Hard of Hearing community

- **Communication Meeting DDS CO**
- **ADA Video Presentation Completed**
- **ADA Notices Placed in DDS Public Areas**
- **ADA Legal Notices published in Hartford Courant**
- **a will and Distributed DVDs of ADA video presentation to private providers**
- **DDS ADA Training Video linked to YouTube**
- **DDS at 100% compliance for ADA Training Video**

❖ **Attended Leadership Meeting in Waterbury to show ADA Training Video to Private Providers and Staff and answered any questions they may have regarding the content of the video.**

- ❖ Attended ADACC (ADA) Conference in Newington
- ❖ Met with Department of Mental Health and Addiction Service sure that s, Client Rights and Grievance Specialist, T it a le II ADA Coordinator to go over handicapped parking standards
- ❖ Served on interview panel for selection of Director Position in region.
- ❖ Attended March 16<sup>th</sup> Disability Summit at Mohegan Sun. Dropped into DDS Individual and Family support table as well as CCH informational booth.



- Met with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community at the Legislative Office Building. Answered inquiries into specific DDS questions.
- Contacted UbiDuo, a company that provides a tablet that enables hearing-impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing to communicate interactively. Waiting on information and questions to be researched and answered by company.

## Concerns | Issues

- Assisted Guardian of deaf individual who needed adaptive equipment in order to communicate with others including staff. Also, helped clear up how Guardian can receive information from DDS by completing a release stating that they are the Guardian. In addition, spoke with therapist who stated that they also need information and be able to speak with the manager.

Individual is now living group home where staff can sign and communicate with individual 24/7.

- Met with mom/Guardian with case manager supervisor to discuss move closer to mom. Individual supported by DDS requested that a move closer to mom be made. Everything in home was thought to be going fine when this request was made . Spoke with mom and move was planned..

*Update:*

Within 30 days individual moved back to original residence.

- Received a call from an individual we serve who asked whether or not they should have given their information to questions asked by an individual claiming to be from the Dept. of Public Health's, Dept. of Infectious Diseases'. Asked whether or not any information was given when they told me "NO" however, they knew their name. I said that that was okay and it was no need to worry. I then stated that if it was important the information would've been requested by letter By the Dept. of Public Health. I also told him that they did not have to fill out the paperwork if they did not want to and it was their prerogative whether or not to give information to anyone anytime. I also stated that anytime they receive a call like this to write down the phone number if they could ask their name and why this information is needed, then tell them you'll call them back. I then told them to call me or their case manager if they have any additional questions. I also said that if they start receiving these calls regularly from people asking personal questions to call me immediately

I then searched several websites to see if there was a specific scam going around trying to capitalize on vulnerable populations. Unfortunately, there are too many scams right now and "everyone is vulnerable".

- I received this article from a friend of mine that serves as the National Council on Disability (NCD) I thought it would be very informative to read.

### Report Alleges 'School-To-Guardianship Pipeline'

by Michelle Diament | June 11, 2019

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Too many people with developmental disabilities are being funneled into guardianships rather than exploring less-limiting options, a new government report suggests, and schools may be to blame. A [report](#) out this week from the National Council on Disability finds that schools often provide biased information leading many parents to pursue guardianship, creating a "school-to-guardianship pipeline." As a result, 58 percent of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 to 22 have guardians. And, once established, the council said many people remain under guardianship for decades. For the report, the federal agency tasked with advising Congress, the president and other government officials on disability issues, looked at data on guardianships, information collected from stakeholders across the country and examined the experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Washington, D.C. both before and after guardianship reforms took effect in the city in 2015. School officials often ask parents about guardianship when students with disabilities turn 18, and in many cases educators do not present other options because they are unfamiliar with alternatives, the report found. Families told the National Council on Disability that they were informed by schools that guardianship was the only way that a student with an intellectual or developmental disability could continue having a family member or friend assist at individualized education program, or IEP, meetings. "Youth with ID/DD are ultimately disempowered by schools actively encouraging guardianship to the exclusion of less-restrictive alternatives, and not providing families and students in special education with sufficient information about the availability of a full continuum of decision-making supports," the report found. Beyond school, the council noted other factors also contribute to a higher risk of guardianship for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For example, some states have special laws for guardianship of people in this population as opposed to other groups. And, even though many states offer a path for people under guardianship to regain their rights, few people with disabilities or their families are familiar with such options. The National Council on Disability is urging the U.S. Department of Justice to issue guidance to states outlining their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to impose guardianship only as a last resort. And, the council said the Department of Education should increase awareness of its existing guidance highlighting the implications of guardianship and advising schools to also honor other forms of supported decision-making for students who remain in special education once they enter adulthood.

- Worked with other ADA coordinators in the 460 Complex and as lead Architect for DAS s to perform a review/assessment of 410 existing exterior accessibility signage. The previous outdated signage was changed to reflect current usage and help promote equal access the buildings in the 460 Complex .
- Submitted Annual Report for last three years, 2015 – 2018. The office of the Ombudsman is statutorily mandated to complete an annual report and submit to committees of cognizance in the General Assembly, as well as Commissioner and DDS Council.



*Areas of Concern*

○ Case Management -	8
○ Case Management Requests -	4
○ Day Program –	5
○ Eligibility -	5
○ Funding/Budget -	6
○ Guardianship –	5
○ Health & Safety –	
○ HIPAA -	
○ Placement –	2
○ Birth to 3-	
○ School District services-	
○ Autism-	2
○ Mental Health Issues	4
○ DDS Information/Referral	15
○ NON-DDS Referrals	17
○ ADA, compliance, insurance, disability, housing,	20
○ DDS Nursing	5
○ Family Intermediary	175* not counted in total

ISSUES/CONCERN TOTAL –98

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