

DDS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory council (ASDAC)
Minutes
April 22, 2015

Members Present: Representative Cathy Abercrombie, Jennifer Bogin, Commissioner Morna Murray, Judy Dowd, Sara Reed, Beth Leslie, Doriana Vicedomini, Ann Gionet, Zachary Laudano, Jim Loomis, Marcia Eckerd, Lois Rosenwald, Maria Synodi, Sara Lourie, Nikki Richer, Ruth Eren, John Molteni, Zach Laudano, Lynn Ricci, Bill Halsey, John Molteni, John Pelegano, Kathy Marcione

Members Absent: Wendy Campbell, Yana Razumnaya, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Robert Shea

Call to Order: 10:03

Welcome and Introduction: Representative Abercrombie

Commissioner Morna Murray Introduction to Advisory Council

Review and Approval of Minutes from 3/11/2015 Advisory Council Meeting:
Motion to accept Lynn Ricci, seconded by John Molteni.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

- John Peterson, grandparent of 3 year-old who aged out of Birth to 3, struggling to find a provider. Pleased with the department and Value Options. Concerned about the availability of providers. Thanked everyone.

Review and Approval of By-Laws (drafted 3/11/15):

- Council has 30 days to review and provide feedback, will vote at the next meeting
- We had discussed adding someone from the Office of Early Childhood to the Council. Still possible?
- Yes, that can be changed and added in the future

Autism Spectrum Disorder Division Updates:

Survey draft designed for individuals on waitlist

- Trying to get a feel for what people are looking for
- Hoping to get 150-200 responses when survey is sent out
- Will be sent out via e-mail, US mail & direct phone calls
- Comments and suggestions:
 - Consider a separate survey for adults and families

- It seems adult oriented. Babysitting is a huge issue. Suggested questions oriented to families of individuals. Families dealing with this. Therapies, OT, etc. may be multiple issues, finding babysitting, schedules, finding providers
- Consider wording the questions so individuals may fill it out
- Suggest putting a committee together for survey, information is going to be extremely important, wording is important, some adult individuals will need to fill out. Need to look at it closely to get information to move forward. Would like a committee to be put together.
- Jenn suggested written comments so ideas can be incorporated, Time period, within the next two weeks.

Update on Activities for Children and Youth with ASD in Emergency Departments

- Over 50% are on spectrum, rough estimate based on Medicaid claims data
- Action items at DDS – some through feasibility study.
- In-home pilot program has been funded for middle school-aged children at risk of emergency crises.
- Moving forward with RFP for 3 hospital beds
- Concern rose about amount of children that have to go out of state. Standpoint at hospital, being reluctant because of fear is that the children need a specialized unit.
- The money that DDS received is for start-up. Medicaid and private pay will pay for inpatient bed. Once 3 beds start, feels provider can open more beds.
- Bill Halsey – Suggests taking some time to get the real numbers together
- Often hospitals are not well trained with individuals with ASD. Has had many calls from therapists. Some type of medical education could be aimed at this population. Expectations are inappropriate.
- This may be one of the topics that will be presented at the next Southern/ASRC conference
- One solution is to place the emphasis on prevention of hospitalization. Doriana's work is important.
- Feedback from families, can get incredible information

DDS Transition Teams

- Goal from day one is to successfully transition the child back to their home and community-based services
- Funding is in place
- This is a cost effective option when compared to out of state placement.
- Upcoming meeting with Commissioner Murray and potential contractor
- Tangible outcomes and data collection will be key
- Contract allows DDS' contractor to serve 3 children before the end of the fiscal year and then 13 in FY16

- Team consists of: Clinical psychologist, behavior analyst, case manager, assistive tech or speech pathologist, OT for sensory issues. Working with psychiatrist working in facility
- While initial work may be targeted eventually this will go state wide
- Modeled after DMHAS 'ACT' teams, thought it would be good thinking to try instead of developmental PRTF.
- Will individuals be transitioned with required services?
- Looking at a lot of options, ASD services through Medicaid may be an option if the child is on Medicaid

Sara Reed – Comprehensive resource guide project

- Will do a grand opening after all is input. Testing with users to see how user-friendly.
- Is the resource live now?
- Yes, under Professional Resources on their website.
<http://www.autismconnecticut.org/professional-resources>

Jenn Bogin – Update on Social/Recreation RFP

- Moving forward, hoping it will be posted in the next couple of weeks with start date of July 1.
- Doriana and Deb Anderson are working on in-home support pilot.

Ruth Eren – Training of School Districts

- funded for training in schools in CT using the Connecticut Autism Training Initiative (CATI) training model
- Invited all CT school districts to apply, over 50 districts interested.
- Funding through DDS was provided. First module began this spring. Next week is the last week of training. Jenn will visit. Second will be in the fall
- Will be interesting to collect feedback from the school districts. To find out what resources they may need.
- Training model, has strong data and getting feedback
- This cohort is to train 3-4 districts.
- They send a multidisciplinary team.
- Each team is different depending on the personnel. Depends on the services the identified child is receiving.
- Is there a way to get feedback from families to see if families are seeing a difference
- They will get feedback from the parents.

John Molteni- Training for Medical Professionals

- Putting together Advisory committee, have a lot of work to do but is starting to receive feedback.
- Looking forward to hearing more.

Commissioner Murray-

- Want make sure that everyone's time is used effectively

- Many questions received
- Would like the Council to consider the idea of having a retreat in September to talk about what to focus on.
- Would like everyone's help and guidance
- DDS will take care of the details and have a facilitator. Will be a professional experience.

Discussion-

- There are a lot of recommendations for this advisory group, great idea.
- Supports idea. Struggles with so many issues and opportunities. Being able to prioritize. Strategic plan for what we are working on.
- Agree, would be great to make a priority list. Article, duties of council. Game plan to extend the time period? 3 year plan?
- Commissioner Murray – recommends to have a 3 year plan. Makes a lot of sense and pushes us to prioritize. Can revisit at any time.
- We wouldn't be meeting in July. With hopes all working groups will continue their work and check in with Jenn throughout the summer
- Jenn will send out a doodle for a date in the Fall

Updates on Working Groups

- **Transportation**
 - Yana has been discussing needs with social skills groups
 - Worked with Autism Resource Specialists for current transportation resources.
 - Looking forward to gaining information from survey regarding the needs.
 - Can use more people on this committee. Can be people who are not on the council
 - Names go to Jenn who will pass them along to the workgroup leader. jennifer.bogin@ct.gov
- **Housing**
 - Looking at resources inside and outside of CT
 - Looking at both privately and Medicaid funded housing
 - DMHAS has a comprehensive list. Steve from DMHAS and housing, Expert on what's available, Will be helpful for him to come and speak at next meeting, Nikki Richer to arrange
 - There may be other groups out there doing the same thing. Maybe collaborate and work together.
- **Employment working group.**
 - Targeting on the school side, post-secondary education and effective employment
 - Starting with small group. Needs more on committee.
 - Jenn – recommends John connecting with Kathy Marcione.

New Business:

- Ann Gionet –
 - Deputy Commissioner from DPH asked her to join the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).
 - Screening event – CT is hosting 6 New England states and New Jersey.
- Doriana Vicedomini
 - Attendance at Autism Awareness Day was excellent
 - 28 sponsors, great speakers. Thanked everyone. The most legislators than ever before and several new legislatures.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn. John Molteni and seconded by Nikki Richer.
10:59

Next meeting September 2015- Exact Date and Location TBA*

Please Fill Out the 'doodle' poll at:
<http://doodle.com/9xk2es25333z3r7w>

Please Note- We will NOT be meeting in July 2015