

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, April 10, 2014

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Lisa Weisinger-Roland; Adrienne Benjamin; Diana Mennone; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. John Pelagano; Dr. Terrance Macy, Ex-Officio

Guest Speakers: Kathryn Rock, the Connecticut Community Providers Association; Leslie Simoes, The Arc Connecticut; Julia Wilcox, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits.

Absent: David Hadden; James Heffernan; Patrick Vingo

Staff: Christine Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Chairperson Patti Silva opened the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Public Comment

No one from the public attended the meeting.

Approval of March Minutes

Minutes for the March meeting were reviewed and a technical edit was made. The council voted to accept the March minutes with change.

All members introduced themselves.

Presentation:

Leslie Simoes spoke about the history of ARC and about her background at ARC and in the field. She spoke about the Families for Families Campaign to educate, empower and engage families, policy makers and the media.

Lisa Weisinger-Roland spoke about her family and the positive experiences she had at the Capitol and having members of the legislature at her home. She is thankful for having a place to go for help for her son. She is grateful for everyone working together; Families to Families, ARC, Commissioner Macy and DDS and having a voice in the legislature.

Julia Wilcox spoke about the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits. She represents the developmental disability division. She spoke about the work the nonprofits do and praised Leslie and the work of Families to Families and also with what Commissioner Macy does, especially working with the TRADES bringing about the model to achieve our common goals.

Kathryn Rock spoke about the Connecticut Community Providers Association. Their focus is being an advocate for members who provide services.

Legislative Update – Christine Cooney

Christine Cooney reported that there are only four weeks of session left and all DDS agency bills are moving along in the right direction. Rod O'Connor will be sending an update on the status of the bills DDS is tracking and the information is posted to the website.

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Macy spoke about and the Academy and what a good response the program received in people signing up.

Commissioner Macy spoke about the Community of Practice and the Michael Smull Project. He is excited with the ideas and efforts so far and the focus being where it needs to be. He spoke about a Blue Space project on May 28th and 29th which is a meeting with DDS staff to encourage Living the Mission.

Commissioner Macy mentioned that Jonathan Slifka, Governor's Liaison to the Disability Community, attended a video conference meeting with the self-advocates.

Commissioner Macy had the second meeting with the ARC families which went well. They spoke about developing relationships and communicating on different levels with a positive outcome.

Commissioner Macy spoke about Robin Wood starting the Living the Mission meetings with the self-advocates giving the opportunity to have open discussions with community members, family members and anyone who plays a role offering several participants the opportunity to give their ideas.

Jen Carroll and Sandy Trionfini are doing a video on Guardianship to be part of the DDS family website.

Commissioner Macy spoke about the Autism retreat at St. Joseph's College and having Peter Doehring, author of *Autism Services Across America* as a guest.

Commissioner Macy wants to do a one-on-one with members of the legislative I/DD Caucus to discuss DDS initiatives.

Old Business

Christine Cooney is coordinating the updating of the Council membership chart. Please update any contact information as soon as possible and members should indicate their preferred method of contact. The final version will be distributed.

New Business

Members voted to draft and send a letter to the Governor to support the funding in the budget for the waiting list that was in the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget.

Robin Wood would like to come back and update the Council on Community of Practice activities.

Christine Cooney will check with Robin. The Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) should be invited.

Christine Cooney will talk to the RACs and let Patti Silva know.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33.