

**DDS-South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2014**

Members Present: Vice Chair Lauralyn Lewis, Carol Cooney, Steve Harney, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Regional Director

Guest: Shelly Brodsky

Call to Order: Vice Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Introductions: All made introductions.

Citizen Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes: Review ensued of the May 21, 2014, meeting minutes. Further action was tabled, in the absence of a quorum.

Chairperson's Report:

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** - Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center Director of Programs and Services Linda Rogen presented at the last meeting. Ms. Rogen shared information on Vista's residential and transitional programs and a new housing development in Westbrook. Corporation for Independent Living (CIL) President and CEO Martin Legault will present at the next meeting on July 10 to discuss how his agency has developed sustainable housing for people with disabilities. Kathy Bai, Old Saybrook Schools Director of Pupil Services, has also been invited to attend the July 10 meeting, in an effort to keep information flowing between schools, families, and providers.
- **Field Activities Update** - On June 10, Governor Malloy met with ARC families at the home of Lisa and Phil Roland of West Hartford to hear firsthand about the challenges facing some families served by DDS specifically in the areas of housing and the wait list.

Administrative Updates:

- **Provider Mentoring Project** - Participating providers met with field experts on May 28-29 to attend two day training on implementing Community of Practice (COP) models. At the training providers had an opportunity to discuss barriers to transitioning to a COP service model and the initiatives they have undertaken to that end. Member Stauffer attended the training on behalf of the NL County Arc and found it to be helpful.
- **Office of the Inspector General (OIG)** - The OIG is conducting a review of 2010 and 2011 abuse/neglect investigations. CT DDS has some of the strongest protections in the country, and these will be expanded in October due to action taken by the legislature and governor.
- **Hurricane Drill** - DDS will participate in a statewide emergency management drill June 21-23.

- **Employment Report** - A recently issued report shows a slow, but steady increase in the number of consumers gaining competitive employment in CT through the individual supported employment programs (ISE) and in the number of providers participating in DDS' employment incentive program.
- **Facilities** – Pending approval of equipment funding, evacuation chairs and automated external defibrillators (AED) will be installed at all South Region office sites.
- **SR Family Forums** - Provider turnout was great at the family fair held on June 5th at Three Rivers College in Norwich; however, family turnout was on the low side. The next fair is scheduled for June 24 at the New Haven Public Library-Wilson Branch. The theme of the fairs is Living Happy, Healthy and Safe Lives. DDS and the Family Support Network collaborated on the fairs.
- **LEA Outreach** - The most recent presentations were to Groton and Griswold Public Schools. Outreach is on hold for the summer, but will resume in the fall.
- **Norwich Dental Clinic** - With the addition of new staff, the region looks forward to expanding dental services. Home visits are now an option. Physical and technological upgrades are also planned for the Region's dental clinic, which is located at the DDS South Norwich Office.
- **PRAT Stats** - 116 Emergencies placed statewide as of April and providers are filling vacancies quickly.
- **Waiting List Funding** - DDS received \$4M in new wait list funding. The funding will annualize to \$8M in FY16. The money will serve P1s with no service whose primary caregiver is 70 and over by July 1, 2014. 100 people will be served statewide first, with more to follow if possible. Outreach to identified families to determine their needs is occurring now. The next step is to determine the criteria that will be used to award funds; possibly a combination of LON and age of caregiver.
- **Residential Rate Transition** - The Regional Director provided an update on the residential rate transition set to begin 7/1/14. Handout distributed and reviewed. Given the budget rescissions were not factored into the original DDS rate, options are now being explored on how to deal with this.
- **Cost Settlement Issue** - DDS is revisiting this issue with OPM and exploring the possibility of building into the process provider incentives to promote individualized supports.
- **Abuse/Neglect Prevention Initiative** - The South Region will undertake an Abuse/Neglect Prevention Initiative in FY15 to include providers, with a focus on direct care staff. The Regional Director is working on the curriculum and will seek contributions from stakeholder groups.
- **Value Options** - Value Options manages the Medicaid contract for DSS and oversees hospital admissions/discharges. SR is working to establish a stronger relationship with them in order to educate them on the needs of DDS consumers. The relationship has already yielded some positive results, i.e. DDS consumers will be flagged for trying to prevent discharge on weekends and holidays. Value Options will facilitate a statewide summit this fall for all DDS regions and the hospitals within the regions. Member Stauffer requested Lawrence and Memorial Hospital be invited to attend.

Old Business:

- In follow up to an inquiry from the Council's last meeting about DDS' relationship with Special Olympics, the Regional Director reported that a contract between DDS and Special Olympics Best Buddies has been in place for some time. The contract is managed out of Central Office.

New Business:

- **Executive Board Nominations** - Executive board member nominations were made as follows:
 1. Chair – Carol Cooney, Lauralyn Lewis
 2. Vice Chair – Carol Cooney, Steve Harney
 3. Secretary – Carol Cooney

Prior to the next meeting, the Regional Director's office will survey the Council for additional nominations. A final slate of nominations will be prepared for the Council's September 17, 2014, meeting, where formal elections will be held.

- **RAC Recruitment** - At the Council's request, the Regional Director's office will distribute a RAC membership recruitment flyer in time for the September meeting. The flyer will be distributed to staff for families/individuals, providers, LEAs, and the FSN. Individuals representing urban areas and school districts would round out the Council nicely.
- **Next Meeting Date** - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is September 17, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS-South Region