

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2016**

Members Present: Vice Chair, Carol Cooney, Jean Brookman, David Cassano, Jeff DePina, Susan Gardner, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralyn Lewis, Diane Martin, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Guest Present: Denise Tift

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, Executive Secretary, DDS South

Call to Order: Vice Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Citizen Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting were reviewed. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting.*

Chairperson's Report

• **Creative Housing Workgroup Update:**

- A few new parents of children aging out attended the last meeting. Josh Scalora of DDS attended the last meeting to share information on housing resources. The presentation by Pam Days-Luketich, Chelsea Groton Bank Assistant Treasurer Community Education Specialist, scheduled for February 10 will be rescheduled due to a conflict with Family Day at the capitol.

• **Field Activity Report:**

- The 3rd. Annual Family Day will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the State Capitol. All are encouraged to attend and bring their child and someone new to the event.
- Sen. Art Linares, Sen. Paul Formica and Rep. Devin will host open office hours at the Saybrook Point Pavilion on Monday, January 25, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to speak one on one with legislators about the needs of people with ID in the state. A number of legislators are hosting pre-session, open office hours in their districts.
- On Saturday, January 23, 2016, a free training entitled, “Using Technology to Create a Good Life” will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Camp Harkness in Waterford. DDS and the CT Developmental Disability Council are sponsoring the training.

DDS Administrative Updates

- Regional Director Dailey updated the Council on, and responded to questions about, the following:
 - Year to date PRAT stats
 - Requests for PRAT Outcome forms
 - Year to date cuts to the DDS budget
 - BSP Waitlist
 - Eligibility for Age/Out funding
 - The Hospital for Special Care's new program for children with Autism
 - Conversions, closures and consolidations of certain DDS homes/programs
 - South Region LEA outreach
 - South Region retirements

Creative Housing Success Story: Council Member Gardner shared her family's experience in developing a creative housing solution for her son.

Membership Update: Council Member Martin's term of membership will expire on April 30, 2016. On the Council's behalf, the RD's office will submit to the Commissioner a recommendation for the appointment of Ms. Heidi Earle, in anticipation of Member Martin's departure. Ms. Earle has expressed on-going interest in joining the RAC for over a year.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Acton Library, Old Saybrook, CT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary