

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2016**

Members Present: Chair Steven Harney, Vice Chair Carol Cooney, David Cassano, Jeffrey DePina, Heidi Earle, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralyn Lewis, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Guests Present: Jacob Earle, Lindsay Mathews, Leslie Bridges, Dawn DeMatteo, Margaret Mummert, and Denise Tift

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

Call to Order: Vice Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Citizen Comment: Public comment by Leslie Bridges regarding the status of day funding for high school grads. Regional Director Dailey explained that no grads have started yet and that only funding for day age/outs has been okayed at this point. DDS did not receive a full year of funding for FY17 grads and is assessing the impact of those holdbacks on grad funding at this time. DDS is also trying to determine the impact of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) on grads.

Public comment made by Margaret Mummert concerning the status of shared housing initiatives in CT. Mr. Dailey noted shared living arrangements and the development of affordable housing is among the issues to be taken up ID Partnership. Discussion ensued on labor laws as related to shared living arrangements.

Introductions: All made introductions.

Approval of Minutes: The draft minutes of the May 2016 meeting were reviewed for approval. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the May 2016 meeting as corrected.*

Chairperson's Report

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update:** Eight families attended the last meeting. Members shared information and spoke about advocacy initiatives. The roommate match event is being pushed to fall. The group is on summer break.
- **Field Activity Report:**
 - **S.B. No. 294 Public Act No. 16-60 An Act Concerning Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability** that allows an individual determined by DDS to be eligible for department funding or services, or his or her legal guardian or representative, to request from DDS a copy of (1) the individual's "priority status" for residential services, (2) the request for funding or services submitted to the regional "planning and resource allocation team," and (3) any decision the team makes on the request, was signed into law. Two-thirds of all legislators signed on as co-sponsors of the bill by the time it reached the governor's desk.
 - OPM Secretary Ben Barnes has indicated more cuts to come.
 - Member Lewis reported on her attendance at a WR RAC meeting noting they are in the process of setting up a Facebook page.

DDS Administrative Updates

- Regional Director Dailey discussed and responded to questions about the following:
 - State employee lay-offs and subsequent bumping activities
 - Impact of budget cuts on residential and day funding
 - Transfer of residential funding account from DDS to DSS
 - ID Partnership (DDS, DSS, OPM)
 - Office of Inspector General's (OIG) final Report on CT's compliance with federal and state requirements for critical incidents involving developmentally disabled Medicaid beneficiaries
 - Conversion and closure of DDS residential settings
 - Grads & age-outs
 - IFS Grants
 - Electronic contract system for providers
 - US DOL OT Regulations and its impact on providers
 - DSS' Community First Choice Program

New Business

- **Guest Speaker:** The RD's office will invite Siobhan Morgan, DDS Waiver Services Director, to the Council's next meeting to speak about DSS' CFC Program.
- **Brunswick Interagency Program (BIP):** Chair Harney reported on a program he visited for people with DD during a recent trip to North Carolina. The Brunswick Interagency Program (BIP) at Brunswick Community College provides classes in language arts, math, social studies, community living and vocational education. Instruction includes independent living skills and utilizes the BIP's apartment complex. Students are employed on transitional crews on campus. Transportation to campus is available for a minimal fee and classes are free to North Carolina adults with developmental disabilities.
- **Membership:** Currently the Council has one vacancy. A second vacancy is set to occur in September. Public participants Leslie Bridges and Dawne DeMatteo expressed their interest in joining the Council. The Regional Director's office will recommend their appointment to Commissioner Murray on the Council's behalf.
- **Executive Board Nominations:** Executive board nominations were made as follows:
 - Chair – Jeffrey DePina, Steve Harney
 - Vice Chair – Dave Cassano, Lauralyn Lewis
 - Secretary – Dave Cassano

The RD's office will contact all nominees to confirm acceptance of their respective nomination(s). Executive board elections will be held at the Council's September 21, 2016, meeting.

- **Roberts Rules of Order:** Chair Harney suggested revisiting the structure of Council meetings and agendas with an eye toward enhancing order during meetings. Suggestions for improving the flow of the meetings included limiting public comments and discussions to two minutes each, delegating further discussion to the end of the meeting as needed, , and add Open Council Discussion as a

reoccurring agenda item. Discussion ensued on liability vis-à-vis council members. The Council's role is advisory in nature and as such, its advice is both informal and non-binding. Advisory councils are not subjected to fiduciary duties or liabilities.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Acton Library, Old Saybrook, CT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Region Executive Secretary

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