

# WEST REGION ADVISORY COUNCIL



May 19, 2011

4:30-6:00 pm

Ella Grasso Center, 300 Armory Road, Stratford, CT

## Minutes

*In attendance: Karleen Craddock, Mickey Herbst, Gil Kellersman, Arlene Steinfeld, Fritz Gorst*

*Absent: Alec Vlahos, Laurette Shrage, Cindy Stramandinoli, Lisa Schwab*

### **Introductions**

We introduced Karleen Craddock, she is the SW Regional Coordinator for the CT Family Support Network. She will be splitting her membership with Trish Butler who is also a member of the CT Family Support Network. Karleen will attend the meetings that are held in Stratford and Trish will attend the meetings held in Waterbury.

### **Regional Director Announcements**

1. Fritz let the Council know that DDS' new Commissioner Dr. Terrence Macy began on April 25, 2011. Central Office and Regional Staff had a meet and greet reception in Central Office that was very well attended.
2. There was a discussion about the STS settlement agreement and how that was progressing.
3. There was a discussion regarding the upcoming FY 12 & FY 13 state budget and budget for DDS. At one time, DDS was slated to take a 10% reduction which would equal approximately \$100 million dollars. With the proposed \$1.6 billion dollar agreement Governor Malloy has negotiated with the state labor unions, it appears if this agreement is ratified, DDS would receive its needed allocations.

It is still unclear on how the \$400 million needed to make up the \$2 billion dollar deficit will be achieved over the next two years. If additional reductions are required, DDS will be notified.

4. Commissioner Macy is planning to have Spring Listening Tours in all three regions. The West Region's is planned for Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Cheshire Office – Training Room. The Commissioner is looking for a cross-section of families that receive supports from the Department. We are looking to include the following for this meeting:

- A B-3 parent
- A parent who uses VSP
- A parent who uses the Help-Line
- A family member who self-directs supports
- A family member whose child is a graduate or soon-to-be graduate
- A family member whose child is in supported employment
- A family member using public residential supports, in the community and at a regional center
- 4 family members who use private supports
- Family members who are on the waiting list
- Chair of the Regional Advisory Committee

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm