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Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Looks to Future of Person Center Supports

(Hartford)- Department of Developmental Services (DDS) staff, providers and families held a day-long seminar at Middlesex Community College to examine enhancing person center supports for individuals with intellectual disability in the state.

“As part of our Five-Year-Plan and DDS Mission/Vision, we need to start turning the system from providing services through organizations criteria to person center supports,” said Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D. “Today, marks a first, in that we are all sitting at the table together and focusing on building a system that is person centered and financially sustainable.”

Currently, over 200 qualified providers and state employees provide services and supports in various ways including; group homes, community residences, regional centers, family homes, apartments and day programs.

Attended by over 150 DDS Staff, providers and families, the seminar featured three nationally known presenters. Patti Scott, Executive Director of Neighbours, International from New Jersey, Lynn Seagle, Executive Director of Hope House Foundation, Norfolk, Virginia and Michael Smull Co-Developer of “Person Centered Thinking”.

The presenters shared stories of the successes of individuals with intellectual disability and the paths taken to reach their individual goals. They focused on their involvement and support in helping people to make their own decisions. One common thread throughout the seminar was in order to make system changes to person center supports, all partners need to share the agency’s mission and vision and support each other through any transformation.

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