

DDS EMPLOYEE NEWS

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

Edition 3

October 25, 2007

New Training Receives Positive Marks

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Educational Support Services began its second round of new employee training using the *Onboard* program this week. *Onboard* combines courses from the web-based College of Direct Support (CDS) curriculum with worksite orientation and classroom-based training. New department employees receive orientations to the CDS at regional offices before logging in to complete the first of eight required online courses. Over the course of three weeks, new direct support employees will be completing CDS courses on *Intro to Developmental Disabilities*, *Direct Support Professionalism*, *Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults and Children*, *Universal Precautions and Infection Control*, *Supporting Healthy Lives*, *Safety at Home and in the Community*, *Individual Rights and Choice*, and *Person-centered Planning and Supports*.

Incorporating the CDS into our new employee training program has enabled the department to reduce classroom-based training from ten days to six. Classroom sessions include *Intro to DDS*, *Employee Professionalism*, *Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention*, *Abuse and Neglect Reporting*, *First Aid*, *Seizures and Signs & Symptoms of Illness*, *Individual Rights*, and *Person-Centered Planning and Supports*. *Diversity* and *PMT* are also included in the six days of classroom-based training.

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The first group of thirty new employees has provided positive feedback to the e-Learning, College of Direct Support training program. Some employees had never used a computer before, but were soon able to navigate through the lessons.

In recent weeks, two private provider agencies have begun implementing CDS training programs and another six currently are working with the MC Strategies and the College of Direct Support to establish administrator accounts.

For further information on the DDS *Onboard* program or the College of Direct Support, please contact John Tierney at 860-418-6137 or john.tierney@ct.gov

Department of Developmental Services

www.ct.gov/dds

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West Region: 203-805-7400 ♦ Southbury Training School: 203-586-2000

DDS Employee News Contacts

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West Region: Eunice Rivera ♦ Southbury Training School: Kathie Logan

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

www.solutions-eap.com ♦ 24/7 Assistance ♦ 1-800-526-3485

Questions?

E-mail: Joan Barnish, Director of Communications ♦ joan.barnish@ct.gov or call 860-418-6044

Supervisor Certificate Program: September – October 2007



This exciting new series was created to support supervisors in their role. Candidates for these programs must be recommended by their supervisor or manager in order to enroll. To receive a Certificate of Completion, candidates must complete all four-days of core program modules in the areas of Self-awareness and Supervision, Ethics, Work Culture, Effective Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Leading the Difficult Employee, Evaluating Work Performance, Recruitment and Selection, New Employees, Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunities for Supervisors, and FMLA/ADA/EAP/Workers' Compensation.

In addition to the Supervisor Certificate Program, we will offer a series of half day or one-day elective programs from October through December 2007 on topics such as leadership, conducting effective meetings, motivating and delegating, conflict transformation, public speaking and effective writing. These sessions have been opened to all supervisors in the department. Look for more information on the DDS web site: www.ct.gov/dds under Education Support Services.

Beth McArthur, Director of Waiver Policy and Systems Improvement was on hand to kick off the Fall 2007 Supervisor Certificate Program on September 18, 2007 at Middlesex Community College. Candidates of the program included: Laurie Armstrong, Carrie Jacques, Lorrie Dalene, Colleen Rios, Michelle Nadeau, John Allen, Linda Parker, Mike Campisi, Carolyn Simmons, and William Bell from the North Region; Kim Dullivan, Cheryl Rico, Debbie delaCruz, Maryellen Westcott, Kendres Lally, Susan Paul, Michael Johnson, Patricia Smith, Neal Cobleigh and Glenn Jackson from the South Region; Jennifer Abbott, Jose Ayala, Kathy Devereaux, Steve Hinckley, Patricia Jacocks, Lori King, Michelle Lionetti, Barbara McRae, Selina Parker and Joanne Verrecchio from the West Region; and Peggy Boyajian from Central Office.

Please speak to your supervisor or manager if you are interested in attending the Spring 2008 session. For more information on the program, you may contact Lidia Gomes at (860) 418-8713 or lidia.gomes@ct.gov.

DDS Employees Help Develop New Statewide Website

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) employees, H. Steven Zuckerman, Ph.D., Psychology Services and Webmaster Janice Gaskell recently participated in the launch of Connecticut's *Network of Care* website. Sponsored by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the development of the new website was the result of legislation and Connecticut Mental Health Transformation Initiative, with funding from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The website, Ct.networkofcare.org reflects the collaboration of 14 state agencies, including the DDS, and the Judicial Branch who are committed to improving Connecticut's Mental Health Care System.

For the past year, Dr. Zuckerman and Ms. Gaskell were part of a DMHAS workgroup that served as an advice committee to the outside designers developing the website. Dr. Zuckerman, for the past 3 years has represented the Department on the DMHAS Steering Committee for the DMHAS Mental Health Transformation Initiative.

Network of Care strives to be accessible to those with limited computer or Web experience, those with limited English proficiency, limited finances and/or physical disabilities and provides services and information about community based social services for people with mental illness and their families and service providers.

Please visit the Network of Care at www.ct.networkofcare.org