

**FINAL Minutes of December 9, 2010**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Donna Bouteiller; Jennifer Carroll, Chair; Jack Frost; , Gregory Kelley; Sheila Mulvey; Peter O'Meara, Ex-officio; Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary; Lou Richards; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo.

Absent: Jim Heffernan, Vice-Chair; Tom Kalal.

**DDS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Kathryn du Pree, Deputy Commissioner; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison.

Jennifer Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

**MINUTES:**

The November Council minutes were reviewed and approved without changes. The motion was made by Donna Bouteiller and seconded by Gregory Kelley.

**OMBUDSPERSON REPORT:**

Ed Mambruno gave his monthly report. Mr. Mambruno has been spending more time in Waterbury and at Southbury. He recently intervened on behalf of a person in a nursing home who needed surgery and involved the long term care ombudsperson.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Christine Pollio Cooney provided information regarding the Governor-Elect's transition activities including the formation of Thought Groups. The Human Services group is headed by Ron Cretaro, Terry Edelstein, and Toni Fatone. The group is charged with making recommendations based on the Governor-Elect's platform. Commissioner appointments are being made. Representative Betsy Ritter has asked to remain as Co-chair of the Public Health Committee. A replacement will be named for Senator Jonathan Harris. The Appropriations and Human Services Committees held a public hearing to review the new Employment and Day Supports Waiver, which the two committees approved unanimously. This waiver will provide primarily day and employment supports for school graduates serving up to 400 individuals over three years. The Results Based Accountability (RBA) Subcommittee will be reviewing the department's Community Training Home (CTH) program on December 13th.

Ms. Pollio Cooney and Rod O'Connor then discussed the recommendations of the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes. Jack Frost asked questions about the actual amount of anticipated savings. Staff clarified who the new waiver is intended to serve, which is adults in need of employment or day supports and children under 18 with complex medical needs. Ms. Pollio Cooney will send the Commissioner's testimony in support of the new waiver to Council members.

**COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:**

Commissioner Peter O'Meara discussed the status of the current FY 11 budget, which seems stable and the planning for the FY 12 budget. Newspaper reports have indicated that the new administration will begin meeting soon with current Commissioners to discuss detailed transition plans.

Commissioner O'Meara shared the plans for a memorial service for Evelyn Kennedy who started many services in Connecticut and advocated for the creation of this department in the mid-1970s.

In terms of planning for the future, the department's ability to generate revenue, to be efficient, and to provide quality services will assist DDS to retain resources.

The Messier Settlement Agreement was signed by Judge Burns on November 18, 2010. The department will begin to implement and meet the agreement's benchmarks. Tony Records has been hired as the Remedial Expert. Options will be offered to meet the needs of individuals at Southbury Training School (STS). It will be the decision of the guardian as to whether an individual stays at STS or transitions to a community setting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The issue regarding a South Region recreation resource was clarified based on a question posed by Tom Kalal. South Regional Director, Mary McKay has asked her staff to do some planning for the longevity of the recreation programs. She will report back to her Regional Advisory Committee and the Commissioner has asked to be kept updated on the issue.

There was a discussion about future meetings. Deb Duval will present on the Waiver Program and the LON in January. Christine Pollio Cooney will reschedule Dan Micari to present on Quality Management. Tom Kalal had forwarded an invitation from Lighthouse to host a future meeting. The Council asked Ms. Pollio Cooney to research additional providers' programs as potential opportunities for tours and presentations, especially those providing employment support and to report back in January. The Council plans to meet in Hartford over the next few months given the budget issues and the transition in state government and therefore will not commit to any specific tours or venues until further discussion can take place. Greg Kelley asked about an orientation to the DDS service delivery system for Council members. An orientation for all Council members will be held on January 13 at 5:00 PM before the next Council meeting.

Jennifer Carroll reported on her attempts to communicate with the new administration. The Governor-Elect's office will coordinate a time to meet with the Council. There was discussion by the members as to the focus of a meeting of the Executive Committee with the Governor-Elect. Patrick Vingo made a motion, seconded by Greg Kelley for Jennifer Carroll to send a communication back to the Governor-Elect's office indicating the Council's desire to meet to discuss 1) the council's role in advising the Governor on the appointment of a DDS Commissioner, 2) maintenance of services for DDS consumers, and 3) Governor-Elect Malloy's vision for people with disabilities in Connecticut and the Council's ability to assist and collaborate with his administration. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOMINATING REPORT:**

Jack Frost, Tom Kalal, and Sheila Mulvey were on the nominating committee. They nominated Jim Heffernan as Chair, Patrick Vingo as Vice Chair, and Dr. John Pelegano as Secretary. Mr. Frost made a motion to close the nomination which was seconded by Dr. Pelegano after asking if there

were any further nominations from the floor. Patti Silva motioned to accept the slate of officers and was seconded by Donna Bouteiller. The motion passed unanimously.

Patti Silva asked about the Council vacancies. DDS is working to recommend a consumer member. Two other slots are open. Christine Pollio Cooney asked for suggestions and recommendations for new members.

Jennifer Carroll thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as chair and appreciated everyone's support over the past 2 years.

Commissioner Peter O'Meara thanked Ms. Carroll for her leadership and the great job she has done as the Council's Chairperson. The Commissioner discussed Youth Scholarships, which is coordinated by Ed Mambruno for the Governor's Office. There is an opportunity for a Department of Developmental Services' consumer to participate.

John Pelegano motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jack Frost. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.