

**FINAL Minutes of June 10, 2010**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Carroll, Chairperson; Carlos Colon; Jack Frost; Jim Heffernan, Vice-Chair; Tom Kalal; Peter O'Meara; Patrick Vingo.

Absent: Donna Bouteiller; Gregory Kelley; Sheila Mulvey; John Pelegano, Secretary; Lou Richards; Patti Silva.

DDS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Brusco, Director of Investigations; Kathryn du Pree, Deputy Commissioner.

GUESTS: Nancy Kalal; Claire White, MARC; Danielle Sheppard; Vicky Severin; Dom Dipollina; April Dipollina; Diane Martin; Jean Brookman.

Jennifer Carroll opened the meeting at 6:25 PM and thanked the South Region Advisory Council for helping to host the Council meeting at Camp Harkness.

MINUTES:

Tom Kalal moved to accept the minutes as drafted and Jim Heffernan seconded. The Council unanimously accepted the minutes of the May meeting.

OMBUDSPERSON'S REPORT:

Ed Mambruno was unable to attend the meeting. Jennifer Carroll shared his report. Tom Kalal noted that the calls to the Ombudsperson have not increased dramatically in this year when 2,700 consumers and families had case management discontinued as a result of budget reductions. Peter O'Meara and Kathryn du Pree discussed the assistance offered to these families through the regional Help Lines.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Rod O'Connor was unable to attend the meeting and Commissioner O'Meara gave the legislative update. A veto override session is scheduled for June 21st to be followed by a special session to address the conveyance bill. The department does not expect any issues that particularly impact DDS to be brought up in either of the sessions.

Jennifer Carroll recessed the meeting for a presentation and tour of Camp Harkness by Mary McKay, Regional Director and Vicky Severin, Camp Harkness Director.

Jennifer Carroll reconvened the meeting at 8:25 PM for the Commissioner's Update.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE: (PETER O'MEARA)

Peter O'Meara thanked Mary McKay and her staff for their wonderful management and stewardship of Camp Harkness that offers unique opportunities for thousands of people each year.

Peter O'Meara then gave a budget update. The current appropriation will allow DDS to sustain services and expand services to school graduates and age-outs. DDS has begun the process of requesting some replacement positions in key areas.

The Special Olympics summer games are this weekend at Southern Connecticut State University. SOAR is a new Special Olympics program to provide legal assistance, trust planning and financial planning to individuals with intellectual disabilities and will be supported by DDS in Connecticut.

Tom Kalal asked if the state ended the year in a surplus position. While there was a small surplus, it is not projected to impact the projected deficit in FY11 or FY12. Federal stimulus money may not continue after December 2010, which will negatively impact Connecticut.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dinner will be provided in September and decisions to continue dinners will be discussed then.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jennifer Carroll raised the question whether the council should meet July 8th. Because there is no meeting scheduled in August, council members decided to hold the July meeting, as scheduled.

The Council will discuss the proposal to honor previous Council members at the July meeting.

Jennifer Carroll closed the meeting by thanking Vicky Severin and Mary McKay for the tour and the South Region Advisory Council for their participation in the meeting.

Jim Heffernan moved and Tom Kalal seconded a motion to adjourn, which passed unanimously. Jennifer Carroll adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.