

**FINAL Minutes of October 14, 2010**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Jennifer Carroll, Chair; Jack Frost; Jim Heffernan, Vice-Chair; Peter O’Meara, Ex-Officio; John Pelegano, Secretary; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo.

**Absent:** Donna Bouteiller; Tom Kalal; Gregory Kelley; Sheila Mulvey; Lou Richards.

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

Jennifer Carroll opened the meeting at 6:03 PM and welcomed all members. Ms. Carroll read a letter from Carlos Colon who has left the Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:**

Patrick Vingo noted that he was absent at the September meeting. Jim Heffernan moved and Jack Frost seconded to approve the minutes with the one correction noted. Motion passed unanimously.

**OMBUDSPERSON’S REPORT:**

There was a particular case involving the Voluntary Services Program and the Ombudspersons from both DDS and DCF. Another case involved a discharge from UCONN John Dempsey.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Christine Pollio Cooney reported that DDS continues to develop its legislative proposals for FY 11. An extension was granted until October 20, 2010. Ms. Cooney reviewed the new federal law (Rosa’s Law) that changes the term “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability,” which provides guidance for change at the state level. A discussion ensued regarding its implications for DDS eligibility criteria. The agency will resubmit the proposal on sexual assault to clarify the inclusion of a staff person having a relationship with a consumer. Community Training Homes (CTH) will be changed to Community Companion Homes to reflect the upcoming changes to the regulations. The statute governing the Autism Pilot will be revised to reflect its current status. Jack Frost asked about its evolution and Ms. Cooney described the expansion to the Hartford area and the department’s efforts to develop HCBS waivers. Other proposals include streamlining the department’s reporting requirements and allowing access to the Abuse and Neglect Registry by volunteer groups such as Special Olympics.

Rod O’Connor briefed the Council about regulatory revisions to the Community Living Arrangements (CLA), CTH and Individualized Home Supports (IHS)/Continuous Residential Supports (CRS) regulations. New regulations for the waiver programs have been drafted by DDS staff and are under review by the Department of Social Services.

**COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:**

Commissioner Peter O'Meara discussed the managers' meeting on October 13, 2010 to provide managers with leadership training and an overview of the national trends. Val Bradley, President of Human Services Research Institute, and Sgt. Eric Murray of the Department of Public Safety were the presenters.

The department's Budget Options require a 15% cost reduction across the DDS system including both the public and private sectors. Commissioner O'Meara referenced the Trades webinar of October 6, 2010 in which these options were reviewed. It is available on the DDS website. The Office of Policy and Management reduced the second quarter allotment by 25% in light of this year's deficit. After Governor Rell makes any specific rescissions, accounts untouched will be fully restored.

Judge Burns conducted a fairness hearing regarding the proposed Messier Settlement Agreement. Many parents and siblings of residents at Southbury Training School (STS) spoke in favor of the Agreement but were also highly complimentary of the services at STS. The Judge listened to all speakers' concerns focused on parents' desire to have the opportunity for a readmission to STS if a readmission is in the person's best interest. The Judge expects this issue to be addressed by DDS. The agency awaits the decision of Judge Burns before implementation of the agreement can begin.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jack Frost told the Council about the fall family forums sponsored by the South Region that focused on transition planning. Forums were offered in East Lyme, Milford and Wallingford. They were very successful. The North Region is conducting its forum on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 8:00 PM in East Hartford.

Jim Heffernan attended a statewide family meeting in Meriden sponsored by Walter Glomb and Mickey Herbst. The purpose is to coordinate families to advocate for DDS service continuation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

At 7:10 pm, John Pelegano made a motion which was seconded by Patrick Vingo for the council to go into Executive Session to discuss drafting a letter to the new Administration. The motion was unanimously approved by the council. The Executive Session was recessed at 8:32 pm. The regular meeting reconvened and adjourned at 8:34 on a motion from Jim Heffernan, seconded by John Pelegano.