

**FINAL Minutes of September 16, 2010**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Donna Bouteiller, Jennifer Carroll, Chair, Jack Frost, Tom Kalal, Gregory Kelly, Sheila Mulvey, Peter O'Meara ex-officio, Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Heffernan, Vice-Chair, Lou Richards, Patti Silva, Patrick Vingo.

DDS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Bruso, Director of Investigations; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Kathryn du Pree, Deputy Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

GUESTS: DDS Community Training Home (CTH) Coordinators Kathy Calo, Doug Duford, Tim Lavoy.

Jennifer Carroll opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carlos Colon, Self Advocate Coordinator for DDS reported that the Disability Advocacy Collaboration Expo was great and he encourages members to attend in the future.

MINUTES:

The June minutes were reviewed and approved without changes. The motion was made by Jack Frost and seconded by John Pelegano.

OMBUDSPERSON'S REPORT:

Ed Mambruno discussed the past few months of individual consumer issues brought to his attention and his recent tour of Southbury Training School and DDS Regional Centers. He was pleased with environments and quality of services.

COMMUNITY TRAINING HOME (CTH) PRESENTATION:

CTH Coordinators from each of the three DDS regions joined the Council to discuss the CTH program. There is a proposal as part of the updating of regulations to change the name of the program to Community Companion Homes. The CTH coordinators explained the purpose of the program, the licensing requirements, training provided, how a match is made and how the department monitors the quality of these homes. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is hoping to increase the number of people served in this program model due to its quality and cost effectiveness. Copies of the power point presentation were included in members packets.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: CHRISTINE POLLIO COONEY AND ROD O'CONNOR

All special sessions are concluded.

The department is currently in the process of revising the Community Living Arrangement (CLA), Community Training Home (CTH) and Individualized Home Supports/Continuous Residential

Supports regulations. Mr. O'Connor explained the process and timeline for the revision and approval of these regulations. A fiscal note and a small business impact statement are required for all regulatory revisions. All three sets of regulations will have a public comment period and a public hearing. Once the CLA, CTH and IHS/CRS regulations are approved by the legislature's Regulation Review Committee, other DDS regulations will be revised and amended in the process of keeping the department's regulations in compliance with current practice, standards and statutes.

The 2011 legislative session will run from the first week in January to the first week in June. It is a "long" session. Legislative proposals are due to the administration October 1, 2010. DDS's proposals will be shared with the council. Any suggestions for legislation should be forwarded to Ms. Pollio Cooney as soon as possible.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:

The Office of Policy and Management has requested all state agencies prepare a budget reduction plan of 15% for fiscal year 2012, which totals \$161 million for DDS. Previous reductions have been absorbed primarily through public sector cuts. The contracted services accounts now comprise 65% of DDS's budget. It will be necessary to propose reductions in both the public and private sectors to reduce expenditures by \$161 million. DDS has set up a suggestion box for staff, providers and families to share their ideas for greater efficiencies and reductions. The department will articulate clearly the implications for all reductions proposed and the impact on consumers, families, staff and providers. Any reductions DDS is required to make will result in the loss of 50% of its value in a reduction of federal reimbursement. Gregory Kelly asked about options for exploring increased federal funding or grants. Jennifer Carroll asked people on the Council to focus its future discussions on what members can do to continue to advocate for the department.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jennifer Carroll recommended reconsidering holding an event at this time to honor previous Council members. Ms. Carroll suggested deferring this to a future point in light of the serious budgetary issues facing the Council and department. Carlos Colon suggested thank you cards. Ms. Carroll appreciated the idea but is concerned with the complexity and time commitment. The Council agreed to put the idea on hold until a future time.

Five pre-meeting dinner plan options for Council members (all at no cost to the state) were presented by Christine Pollio Cooney. Council members decided to bring their own food. The motion was made by Jack Frost and seconded by John Pelegano.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jennifer Carroll shared the Council bylaws related to the duties of the Council and asked the Council to discuss what could be done to support the department during this time of financial difficulties. Ms. Carroll suggested a letter of support be prepared and appointments scheduled with the gubernatorial candidates. Tom Kalal suggested the Council find out the candidates' positions on DDS and services for people with disabilities. Carlos Colon heard the candidates speak at the recent Advocacy Convention. Rod O'Connor suggested outreach through Council members' groups' contacts and affiliations. John Pelegano suggested a meeting instead. After a discussion, the Council decided to gather information about the candidates' positions on serving people with disabilities and then decide the Council's communication priorities at the October Council meeting to be discussed with the elected governor. This will be the focus of the October meeting. All council members were asked to come to the next meeting with their suggested priorities for the council going forward. Dan Micari, Director of Quality Management, will be rescheduled to a future meeting to free up October

for this discussion and preparation of a letter for the new administration. A suggestion was made that the Council may want to meet in Executive Session at the November meeting. Jack Frost announced the upcoming South Region's family forums. Three will be held this fall with a focus on school transition planning.

Tom and Nancy Kalal invited all to a Barn Dance at their home on September 25, 2010 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

John Pelegano motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm and Tom Kalal seconded.