

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Jim Heffernan, Chair
Patrick Vingo, Vice Chair
Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary
Donna Bouteiller
Jennifer Carroll
Jack Frost
David Hadden
Thomas Kalal
Jamie Lazaroff
Sheila Mulvey
Lou Richards
Patti Silva
Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Ex-Officio

DDS STAFF:

Deputy Commissioner Joseph Drexler
Sgt. Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations
Edward Mambruno, Ombudsperson
Christine Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs
Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

DRAFT Minutes of December 8, 2011

In Attendance: Jennifer Carroll; Jack Frost; David Hadden; Thomas Kalal; Jamie Lazaroff; Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Sheila Mulvey; John Pelegano, Secretary; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo, Vice-Chair.

Absent: Donna Bouteiller; Jim Heffernan, Chair; Lou Richards.

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Christine Cooney, Joseph Drexler, Shane Hassett, Ed Mambruno, Rod O'Connor.

Patrick Vingo opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and made a motion to recess for 15 minutes, which was seconded by Patti Silva. The Council voted unanimously to recess for 15 minutes. Mr. Vingo reconvened the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Introductions:

The Council members introduced themselves to the newest Council member Jamie Lazaroff and to Commissioner Macy's Executive Secretary Michelle Bacry. Jennifer Carroll distributed a copy of the fall 2011 "One Voice" newsletter to the Council.

Review of November Minutes:

Patrick Vingo made a motion to accept the minutes as written for the November meeting, which was seconded by Patti Silva. The Council voted unanimously to accept the November minutes as written.

Ombudsperson's Report:

Ed Mambruno shared his November report with Council Members. Mr. Mambruno spoke of three bulleted items in the Concerns/Issues section of his report. This sparked conversation that informed the Council Members.

The first issue Mr. Mambruno spoke of was one concerning heating assistance. Shelia Mulvey spoke of her positive experiences with working with the heating assistance program and the importance of making contact with the agency as early in the season as possible so the paperwork can be completed. Mr. Mambruno agreed to get a sample packet from Operation Fuel so the Council can see what is involved in making a request for heating assistance.

The second issue involved an elderly parent who was upset regarding budgetary constraints on her daughter's services. Commissioner Macy explained that this consumer was receiving services that were paid for privately by the family which was no longer sustainable. . The region is working with the family and their request for funding.

Jack Frost asked if the loss of case manager positions at DDS in 2008 was increasing the stress on the system. Joseph Drexler explained that in 2009 the regional Help Lines were established and have been a wonderful resource for individuals and families with requests such as respite and family support grants, help completing Title 19 paperwork, and with entitlement issues.

Legislative Update:

Christine Cooney discussed the Program Review and Investigation Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 regarding the study on the "Provision of Selected Services for Clients with Intellectual Disabilities". The meeting will take place at the Legislative Office Building in Room 2B at 10:00 AM and is open to the public. There will be a presentation of the recommendations, but no votes will be taken at this meeting. These recommendations may require either legislative or administrative action.

Ms. Cooney also advised the council that the legislative session for 2012 will convene February 8, 2012. The 2012 session is a "short session", which is focused on budget adjustments and related legislation. DDS legislative proposals are awaiting administrative approval.

Rod O'Connor advised the group of the legislative redistricting that has been approved for Connecticut's House and Senate districts. He suggested that Council Members visit the General Assembly website at www.cga.ct.gov to see any changes that may have affected their districts.

On behalf of Jim Heffernan, David Hadden distributed a copy of the Appellate Court of Connecticut State v. Fourtin case. The question was asked where Senate Bill 918 stands. Ms. Cooney advised the group that the Department of Developmental Services did voice its opinion on the bill last year. It was passed in the Senate but died in the House. Ms. Cooney will advise the Council if the bill is proposed again during the 2012 session.

Commissioner's Update:

Commissioner Macy expressed his pleasure with having Michelle Bacry join the Department of Developmental Services as his Executive Secretary and for the opportunity to continue their previous working relationship, which began at SARAH Tuxis Residential Services.

Commissioner Macy distributed copies of a DVD entitled "Employment Idol" which is a great tool to help persons with intellectual disability secure real jobs for real pay. The video will be beneficial for schools, families and potential employers and will help parents to advocate with schools to teach and promote the needed skill sets for employment.

The Commissioner discussed the positive progress taking place at Southbury Training School and the speed at which it is happening. Approximately 70 consumers or their families and guardians have expressed interest in exploring residential options in the community.

The Commissioner was asked where the money will come from to provide the necessary supports for the consumers who leave Southbury Training School (STS). Commissioner Macy explained that DDS is in constant communication with OPM concerning the *Messier* settlement agreement and its requirement to offer and support community-based placement for residents of STS. The reduction in the number of residents at STS will provide some savings that can be applied towards the cost of community-based services.

The process of filling positions within DDS is moving forward including the posting of 30 new Case Manager positions.

The DDS Five Year Plan is moving forward. Once the Individual and Family Advocate position is filled, this person will be responsible for the oversight and follow through required around the approximately 25 goals of the plan. This process will include the development of stakeholder groups consisting of approximately 15 members each. Commissioner Macy assured members that stakeholder groups will be a cross section of participants and that individuals who do not have case managers will also be represented. Commissioner Macy shared that John O'Brien is going to help revise and update the agency's Vision/Mission statement.

Mr. Vingo asked how the Council on Developmental Services can participate in the stakeholder process. Commissioner Macy explained that there will be a call for partners that will be posted on the DDS website.

Jamie Lazaroff expressed how important it is for families to come forward and participate not just when families are in crisis. He also said that families need to learn how to start helping other families by sharing their knowledge.

Commissioner Macy stated that a page of clarification will be created for the final Five Year Plan.

Commissioner Macy also shared with the Council that he has been meeting with Beau Doherty from Special Olympics and is looking forward to increased opportunities for partnership.

Sheila Mulvey addressed the Commissioner with her concerns in regards to recent news articles. The Commissioner addressed each incident and provided what information he had.

Old Business

Ms. Mulvey discussed the Governor's Executive Order No. 10 concerning Personal Care Attendants and her efforts to better understand the consequences of implementing this order. Ms. Mulvey encouraged everyone to contact their state legislators concerning the Executive Order. Ms. Silva suggested that an agenda item be added for the next meeting regarding what the council could do on this issue.

New Business

The nominating committee comprised of Tom Kalal, Jack Frost and Patti Silva recommended to the Council that the slate of candidates for the Council officers for 2012 be Jim Heffernan, Chair; Patrick Vingo, Vice Chair; and Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary. Having no further nominations from the floor, Mr. Frost made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Mr. Hadden. Mr. Frost made a motion to vote on the proposed slate of officers for 2012 which was seconded by Mr. Kalal. The Council voted unanimously for the recommended slate of officers for 2012.

Ms. Silva made a motion to accept the Council's 2012 meeting schedule, which was seconded by Ms. Mulvey. The Council voted unanimously to accept the 2012 meeting schedule as proposed. The Council requested to include discussion of future meeting topics and potential site visits as part of the next meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm on a motion made by Dr. John Pelegano and seconded by Thomas Kalal.