



Approved Minutes of January 13, 2011

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Donna Bouteiller; Jennifer Carroll; Jack Frost; David Hadden; Jim Heffernan, Chair; Peter O'Meara, Ex-officio; Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary; Patti Silva; Patrick Vingo, Vice-Chair.

Absent: Thomas Kalal, Gregory Kelley, Sheila Mulvey, Lou Richards.

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

Jim Heffernan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Heffernan began by welcoming Patti Silva back after a brief absence and welcomed newly-appointed Council member David Hadden, who is returning to the Council. Mr. Heffernan thanked Jennifer Carroll for her commitment to people with intellectual disability and her leadership of the Council during the past two years.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the public attended the January Council meeting.

DECEMBER MINUTES:

The Council reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. After one correction was noted, Patrick Vingo moved to approve the minutes as revised, which was seconded by John Pelegano and approved by the Council.

OMBUDSPERSON REPORT:

Ed Mambruno summarized his activities during December including a family concern with the availability of home health services from the Department of Social Services (DSS). Other issues involved guardianship and resource concerns. Mr. Mambruno is working with the regional administrator to reach resolution on these issues.

DDS HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVER OVERVIEW:

Deb Duval, Director of Waiver Policy and Enrollment, presented information about the Medicaid waivers operated by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The department currently operates two waivers: Comprehensive and Individual and Family Support.

DDS has applied to CMS to operate a third waiver, which will be the Employment and Day Supports waiver. This waiver was approved by the legislature in December and forwarded to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS has 90 days to complete its review.

Ms. Duval discussed the benefits of waivers to consumers and their families. The waivers offer a range of flexible services and supports and the state, through federal financial participation (FFP), gets reimbursed for 50% of the cost of providing these services.

Ms. Duval discussed the waiver assurances regarding level of care, individual planning, provider qualification, health and welfare, financial accountability and administrative authority.

A discussion ensued regarding the option for a consumer to hire a family member. Ms. Duval and Kathryn du Pree detailed the reasons for hiring a parent, the mechanisms the department has in place to ensure oversight, and that the decision to hire a parent is in the best interest of the consumer. Only adult consumers (18 or older) can hire a parent. Jim Heffernan asked about the number of parents in this direct support role. Ms. du Pree will report at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Duval also reviewed the Level of Need (LON) screening tool and process. The LON is used for individuals planning risk identification and resource allocation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Christine Pollio Cooney discussed the DDS legislative proposals, which have been supported by the administration. A written summary was shared with Council members. These proposals include:

- Respectful language modeled on the federal Rosa's Law
- DDS master technical bill including person first language, substituting intellectual disability where possible and repealing some reporting requirements
- An autism bill with terminology changes and to update the Autism Division statutes
- Access for volunteer organizations to the DDS abuse and neglect registry
- Changing the name of the Community Training Home (CTH) program to Community Companion Home (CCH)
- Sexual assault bill.

January 14th is the deadline for legislators to submit proposed bills. Ms. Pollio Cooney and Rod O'Connor will post links on the website to DDS bills and other bills of interest to the department. The Public Health Committee's co-chairs are Representative Betsy Ritter and Senator Andrea Stillman. Senator Stillman is temporarily assigned to the Committee. The Ranking members are Senator Jason Welch and Representative Jason Perillo. Ms. Pollio Cooney and Mr. O'Connor are scheduled to meet with the Public Health Committee leadership to discuss agency bills on Friday, January 14th.

Ms. Pollio Cooney discussed the Thought Group proposals that she sent to Council members earlier this week. There were several areas of focus. The Human Services report had the most potential impact related to DDS. Several recommendations were consistent with the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes' report. Jim Heffernan thanked Ms. Pollio Cooney and Mr. O'Connor for their timely sharing of legislative information.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:

Commissioner Peter O'Meara discussed the relative health of DDS's FY 2011 budget. Commissioner O'Meara does not expect any deficiencies or rescissions. The Executive Branch is focused on the development of the FY 2012 budget proposal. DDS's obligations for continuing services, school graduates and age-outs have been clearly expressed to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The secretary of OPM is giving public employees the opportunity to share ideas to achieve greater cost effectiveness. The Rate Study Committee has finalized its report, which Commissioner O'Meara shared with the Council.

There is talk about public services having an abundance of managers. DDS was noted by the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes as having the least number of managers per employee among the agencies mentioned. Commissioner O'Meara is also confident in the department's ability to provide quality services in a cost effective manner.

Jim Heffernan discussed the upcoming rally of families, consumers and providers to maintain services scheduled for January 19th at the Capitol. Mr. Heffernan also expressed the Council's support of maintaining DDS as a separate agency.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jim Heffernan asked Jennifer Carroll to update the Council on her efforts to schedule a meeting with Governor Malloy. To date, a meeting has not been scheduled.

Topics for upcoming meetings were discussed. Christine Pollio Cooney followed up with CW Resources regarding the Council's interest in touring the Coast Guard Academy. A meeting may be scheduled in late spring. Mr. Heffernan suggested a consumer who works there be included in the presentation. Mr. Heffernan also suggested Dan Micari to be invited to present on Quality Management in March instead of February. Ms. Pollio Cooney will follow up on other requests from the Council for presenters.

Jack Frost moved and John Pelegano seconded a motion to change the February 10th meeting date to February 17th. The motion was unanimously passed.

Dr. Pelegano shared information on the upcoming forum on autism scheduled for January 25th at the Legislative Office Building. The focus is on best practices and it is open to the public.

Patti Silva discussed her research on social and recreational inclusive activities. She has discovered a national resource in the Sparkle Effect, which started with an inclusive cheerleading team. Commissioner Peter O'Meara indicated that Unified Sports sponsors cheerleading.

Ms. Silva motioned and Patrick Vingo seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM, which was unanimously passed.

The Council convened in executive session.