



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Heffernan, Chair
Patrick Vingo, Vice Chair
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DDS STAFF

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner
Kathryn du Pree, Deputy Commissioner
Sgt. Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations
Edward Mambruno, Ombudsperson
Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs
Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

Approved Minutes of July 14, 2011

In Attendance: David Hadden; Jim Heffernan, Chair; Thomas Kalal; Sheila Mulvey; John Pelegano, Secretary; Patrick Vingo, Vice-Chair.

Terry Macy; Kathryn du Pree; Sgt. Shane Hassett; Christine Pollio Cooney.

Guest: Jamie Lazaroff

Jim Heffernan opened the meeting at 6:05 PM and introduced Jamie Lazaroff, a self advocate who has been recommended to be appointed to the Council. He awaits appointment by the Governor's Office. He introduced himself and spoke about his career in advocacy.

Ombudsperson's Report

Ed Mambruno did not attend the meeting due to the length of the agenda but all council members received a copy of his monthly report. Mr. Heffernan asked members to call Mr. Mambruno with any questions or they can be discussed at the September meeting.

Overview of the Division of Investigations

Sgt. Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations, provided an overview of the work of the Division of Investigations (DOI) focusing on 2010. There were 1,467 investigations, 976 of which were done in the private sector. For those investigations completed in the public sector, 35% were done by investigators in DOI and 65% were completed by trained pool investigators. Of 1,467 allegations, 627 (43%) were substantiated. The number of allegations increased in 2010, which Sgt. Hassett attributed to education and greater awareness of abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect allegations comprise 80% of the allegations.

Financial abuse appears to be increasing. There are now 500 trained investigators in the public and private sector, including 85 who were trained in 2010. Medical desk reviews are done by the DOI and 90 cases were reviewed in 2010. These reviews are required by Executive Order 42. These reports are shared with the Office of Protection and Advocacy (OPA) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regions. Sgt. Hassett explained the role of OPA in terms of oversight and investigations in family homes.

Legislative Update

Christine Pollio Cooney handed out a summary of the June Special Session, which was convened June 30, 2011 and gave the Governor increased rescission authority to address the budget deficit. The Governor will present his plan to the Legislature on July 15, 2011. The Appropriations Committee may hold public hearings no later than August 31, 2011.

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Terry Macy first discussed his family listening tours. Four have been held and one more has been scheduled. Ms. Cooney shared a summary of the common themes to date. Mr. Heffernan asked about the most prevalent themes in the meetings. The Commissioner reported that communication, respite, case management and clarification about the responsibilities of local school districts versus DDS were the most discussed themes. The transition coordinators are considered to be very valuable. The family groups were very diverse and used different types of DDS services. The information will be used for the development of DDS's Five Year Plan. The Commissioner will next schedule listening tours with providers.

Budget Update

The Department was given a reduction target of \$47 million for fiscal year 2013 (FY13). The Commissioner appreciated the hard work of staff to develop this plan, which was exceedingly difficult because significant cuts had to be made. The Commissioner shared the programs and agency functions that will be impacted. Layoff notices would commence on July 15th.

Review of May and June Minutes

Mr. Heffernan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May 12th meeting. Thomas Kalal motioned and David Hadden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Vingo motioned to accept the minutes of the June 9th meeting and Dr. Pelegano seconded. Commissioner Macy addressed a question from Mr. Vingo about the transition team. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Heffernan introduced the changes to the bylaws for the Council. Article V was amended to add Section 9. Mr. Kalal motioned to accept this amendment and Mr. Hadden seconded. It passed unanimously. The second change to the bylaws changed language to conform with Public Acts 10-93 and 11-16, which change the terminology to intellectual disability and addresses length of term of Council members. Mr. Vingo motioned and Dr. Pelegano seconded. Mr. Hadden asked about the definition of length of term. Ms. Cooney explained that this is included in statute. This change passed unanimously.

Ms. Cooney discussed future Council meetings. The next meeting is in September. The Five Year Plan will be discussed and facilitated by Linda Goodman. Representatives of the Regional Advisory Councils are invited. Self Advocacy Coordinators will attend in October. OPM Secretary Barnes has been invited for November. The December meeting is the annual meeting and the current plan is for a discussion related to the Commission on Non Profit Health and Human Services Report at that meeting. Mr. Heffernan suggested the Council invite the decision-makers from the Office of Policy and Management. Mr. Hadden discussed the importance of keeping the focus on the structural need of the private sector. Ms. Cooney will email the report to members to solicit their additional input on this request for a presentation on the report.

The Abuse and Neglect Registry database will be tabled and discussed at a future meeting. Dr. Pelegano asked if the Department had thoughts about how to measure the impact of the budget reductions. Deputy Commissioner Kathryn du Pree reported that she and the Regional Directors had begun this process. She will report on this in September and solicit input from the Council.

New Business

Discussion ensued regarding Council membership and term limits. There are two current vacancies on the Council. Mr. Heffernan discussed the plan to leave time for possible Executive Sessions. An executive session of the Council was called to order at 8:24 PM.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.