



*Dannel P. Malloy*  
*Governor*

## **Minutes of Thursday, October 10, 2013**

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

**In attendance:** Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; ; Adrienne Benjamin; Jennifer Carroll; Jim Heffernan; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Shelia Mulvey; Dr. John Pelegano; Patrick Vingo

**Absent:** Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; David Hadden; Lou Richards

**Staff:** Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Planning Specialist; Joe Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

Chairperson Patti Silva opened the meeting at 6:04 P.M.

### **Public Comment**

No one from the public attended the meeting.

### **Approval of September Minutes**

Minutes for the September meeting were reviewed. Jim Heffernan made a motion, seconded by Dr. John Pelegano to accept the minutes with grammatical changes. The Council voted unanimously to accept the September minutes with changes.

### **Presentation: National Core Indicators Data - Tim Deschenes-Desmond**

Tim Deschenes-Desmond presented on DDS's involvement with the National Core Indicators (NCI) program. The NCI program is a voluntary effort by state developmental disability agencies to track and measure their own performance and to pool knowledge and resources to create a nationally validated set of performance measures. Mr. Deschenes-Desmond discussed the data analysis for the 2012 NCI Adult Consumer Survey with a comparison between Connecticut's results and national results on various indicators.

On the Work, Employment and Day Program indicators Connecticut ranked first in in percentage of persons in Community Employment, although most of those individuals were in Group Supported Employment and relatively few were in either Individual Supported Employment or Competitive Employment. On Choice and Decision-Making indicators Connecticut was below the national average. On Health indicators Connecticut is significantly above the national average on individuals who have a primary care physician as well as on having dental, eye, and hearing exams and on having mammograms.

Patrick Vingo asked about the statistical validity of the Connecticut survey with 400 participants. There was a general discussion of how the Core Indicator data might be skewed depending on who participates. As a general indicator of how the state is doing with programs and services offered to persons with intellectual disability, the NCI survey results show both where the state is doing well but also how it compares with other state's developmental services programs.

### **Links to:**

[NCI Adult Consumer Survey Data Analysis 2012](#)

[DDS National Core Indicators Webpage](#)

## **Ombudsman's Report:**

Ed Mambruno's monthly report for September 2013 was distributed in each council member's packet. Council members should contact Mr. Mambruno if they have questions regarding the September report at [Ed.Mambruno@ct.gov](mailto:Ed.Mambruno@ct.gov).

## **Legislative Update – Rod O'Connor**

Rod O'Connor explained the new process by which staff from the Governor's office (OTG), the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and DDS met to discuss the department's ideas for legislative proposals. The Governor's office and OPM reacted positively to six proposals DDS brought to the table but said that the seventh proposal should be brought up as part of the department's budget options. With OPM's and OTG's sign-off, DDS will now fully draft these six proposals for further review by OPM and OTG staff.

Mr. O'Connor summarized the seven preliminary legislative proposals for council members.

1. Repeal of the Unified School District #3 because Early Connections of the Birth to Three Program, which is the only program covered by the school district, is set to have its last child leave in April 2014.
2. Revise statutes related to DDS Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) and the Council on Developmental Services (CDS). Allow members of RACs to serve until a successor is appointed. Allow the CDS to meet at least six times a year instead of bimonthly. Change one of the Governor's CDS appointments to allow for a parent or guardian of any person receiving services from DDS. Add a Governor's appointment of a person with autism spectrum disorder who receives services from the department.
3. Transfer the administration of the DDS revolving loan fund to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA).
4. Change abuse and neglect statutes to cover those individuals with autism spectrum disorder but who do not have intellectual disability and receive supports and services from DDS.
5. Redefine the term "abuse" in DDS statutes to include "financial exploitation" of an individual who receives services from DDS.
6. Revise Probate Court statutes to allow a licensed psychologist's report be accepted by the Court in lieu of a licensed physician's report in cases where an involuntary conservator is to be appointed for an individual.
7. The Self-Advocate Coordinators proposed that all General Workers in state service be given vacation and sick time. This proposal was deemed to be a budget option and would have to be presented in budget discussions.

Council members had questions concerning the new appointment and reworded appointment language proposed for the Council on Developmental Services and who could serve under the various statutory appointments. There was also discussion on whether the report to the Probate Court on "involuntary conservatorship" would be from a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist, or whether DDS consumers would only be allowed a licensed psychologist's report in matters of involuntary conservatorship. Mr. O'Connor said that he would get back to the council members on the questions on appointments. He said that he would discuss the question of the involuntary conservatorship appointments with DDS legal staff.

## **Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner Macy detailed his work with the state's other Human Services Commissioners on developing an employment initiative for persons with various disabilities. The hope is that Connecticut could become a model for employment of persons with disabilities following the lead of the state of Maryland.

Commissioner Macy reported on the Department of Developmental Services and Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities **Supporting Families Community of Practice Conference**. This event presented an overview of the national Community of Practice initiative. The attendees divided up into 10 workgroups to focus on various elements of engaging communities to create different ways to support DDS consumers.

The Commissioner discussed a cooperative initiative between DDS and 1199 to provide training for state employees to transition to providing Individual and Family Support services in an individual's home. The Commissioner also reported on his meeting with the West Hartford legislative delegation where the legislators shared their concerns on funding for services their constituents need.

Jennifer Carroll related a conversation she had had with a couple in their 90's who were concerned that their child was not able to receive DDS supports and services that they felt their child needed. The couple expressed concern about their child not having these services in place before they were unable to provide for their child's care. Council members discussed with the Commissioner some of the issues around transitioning from DDS legacy services to more appropriate, cost-effective services for a larger number of DDS consumers.

**Old Business**

Ms. Silva asked that all other business before the Council be tabled for a future meeting. She asked that the November meeting's agenda continue the discussion with the Commissioner on DDS's services delivery systems as the department transitions from one service model to another.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Frost and seconded by Ms. Benjamin.