



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Minutes of January 10, 2013

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In Attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Jennifer Carroll; Marisol De Jesus; David Hadden; James Heffernan; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. John Pelegano; Patrick Vingo

Absent: Thomas Kalal; Lou Richards

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Christine Pollio Cooney, Director, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner

Chairperson Patti Silva opened the meeting at 6:06 P.M.

Public Comment

Thomas Renart, Senior Vice President Program Services and Kari-Ann Wanat, Program Coordinator from Easter Seals NY and Coastal Fairfield County discussed the services Easter Seals offer. Mr. Renart explained Easter Seals NY and Coastal Fairfield County, provides services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and enjoy their communities. Teams of therapists, teachers and other health professionals help each person overcome obstacles to independence and reach his or her personal goals. Mr. Renart expressed Easter Seals desire to work with the Department of Developmental Services.

Approval of December Minutes

Minutes for the October meeting were reviewed. Two changes were requested. Jennifer Carroll made a motion, seconded by Jamie Lazaroff, to accept the minutes with changes. The Council voted unanimously to accept the December minutes with changes.

Legislative Update

Christine Pollio Cooney informed the Council that January 9th was the opening day of the 2013 legislative session and that Governor Malloy gave his State of the State address on that day. Governor Malloy is scheduled to present his proposed budget for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 on February 6th. Agency budget hearings are expected to be the weeks of February 11th and 18th, the date will be shared as soon as DDS's date is set. The Public Health Committee has a new House Chairperson, Representative Susan Johnson. Legislative Affairs Division staff will provide updates on public hearing dates as they are scheduled. Rod O'Connor will continue to maintain an email distribution list and will provide updates throughout the session which ends on June 5th.

Commissioners Update

Commissioner Macy and Deputy Commissioner Drexler explained DDS's strategy to continue to prioritize as much of its budget reductions as possible in nonessential areas. DDS will "trim along the edges" and thereby reduce cuts that impact day or residential allocations. Requests for funding that may have been routinely agreed to in the past may now no longer be considered. Only the most significant needs will be funded. The net result of its "trim around the edges" strategy will be a DDS that has less flexibility to respond to consumer needs than in the past.

Commissioner Macy stated that the Mission Connection Day that was held on January 7th at Manchester Community College was an important event for the department. Robin Wood is doing a great job keeping DDS's eye on where we want the mission to be. The event consisted of 63 participants made up of management staff and self advocates. The energy level and investment by participants was impressive. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have already received reports of groups taking action to implement Five Year Plan goals. The Self Advocate Coordinators reported at the SAC's meeting what goals they were going to focus on.

Commissioner Macy reported the final version of the Autism Feasibility Study is being prepared to be submitted to Governor Malloy.

New Business

Members discussed potential meeting topics and site visits for 2013. Commissioner Macy expressed how impressed and informative the tour of the Walgreens facility in Windsor was and recommended that anyone who has the opportunity for a tour should participate.

The council agreed to hold some of the possible site visits in the afternoon as long as enough notice is given. Christine Pollio Cooney and Michelle Bacry will follow up on the requests from council members.

The Council requested any additional information regarding the rally to protect services that is being held on Thursday, January 30.

Jim Heffernan inquired about the status of his term with the Council on Developmental Services. Mr. Heffernan stated he had submitted his request to the Governor's office and to date has received no correspondence. Ms. Cooney agreed to follow-up with the Governor's office on the status of the 6 reappointments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm on a motion made by Pat Vingo, seconded by Mr. Heffernan.