



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, November, 14, 2013

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Adrienne Benjamin; Jennifer Carroll; David Hadden; Dr. John Pelegano

Absent: Jim Heffernan, Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Shelia Mulvey, Lou Richards; Patrick Vingo

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Joan Barnish, Director of Communications; Joe Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs

Chairperson Patti Silva opened the meeting at 6:08 P.M.

Public Comment

No one from the public attended the meeting.

Approval of September Minutes

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

Presentation: Office of Communications Technology Update/Video Conferencing/Studio – Joan Barnish

Joan Barnish presented remotely from the DDS Studio on DDS's challenges to reduce travel costs and increase employee productivity which resulted in the development of the Video Conferencing Initiative. This initiative went through many phases starting with the purchases of four 55" Cisco Video Conferencing Units that are located in the DDS Central Office and one in each of the DDS Regions: Waterbury, Wallingford and East Hartford. After a few months, it became apparent that the department needed to expand the video conferencing services. Phase two began by researching ways to connect different locations while saving monies. In June 2013, DDS purchased 17 47" TV monitors, cables and adapters for a total of \$11,000 instead of the \$255,000 it would have cost if the department purchased the Cisco units. These 17 monitors are located in each of DDS's satellite offices and combined with the original units, total 21 DDS locations now having access to video conferencing.

The Video Conferencing Initiative has had a huge impact on the way business is conducted at the department. Employees no longer schedule their meetings by planning around travel, but rather by the availability of video conferencing. Employees have embraced this new technology and are now asking for even more access, however, Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Techonolgy has informed us that they do not have the capacity to handle increased usage from agencies. Even though this initiative does not directly affect Connecticut citizens, it has saved money, time and travel on state roads.

Ms. Barnish invited the Council members into the studio for a tour of the technology that will allow DDS to better communicate with consumers and families.

Ms. Barnish shared that DDS currently is planning to expand video conferencing to consumers and their families, providers, and DDS councils and advisory boards. The department has found that in these economic times, providing video conferencing is an excellent way to reduce travel costs and time while at the same time allowing more people to

be engaged with DDS. This is especially true for the 200 DDS contractors who are always looking for ways to save money. Some ways in which this technology might be used in the future

- Allow providers to either schedule time on the DDS video conferencing system or connect via their own equipment using the free Jabber download from CISCO.
- Hold council and advisory board meetings via DDS video conferencing.
- Allow families to connect via video conferencing for required quarterly and yearly conferences with DDS.

In closing, Ms. Barnish shared that BEST is in full support of DDS expanding its video conferencing and will be working with the department to do so after January 2014.

Ombudsman's Report:

Ed Mambruno distributed his October monthly report and gave a synopsis of some of the calls he has handled during that month. Council members should contact Mr. Mambruno if they have questions regarding the September report that was previously emailed at Ed.Mambruno@ct.gov.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney

Christine Pollio explained that final proposals have been submitted to the Office of Policy and Management and the Governor's office for review. The department is waiting on feedback. Ms. Pollio encouraged members of the Council to contact her if anyone has additional questions.

Ms. Pollio shared with the members that the department has seen a rise in constituent issues regarding the siting of various types of residential models funded by the department. Ms. Pollio listed the types of residential models.

In addition, it was reported that Commissioner Macy recently appointed Dr. Peter Tolisano, Director of Psychological Services to the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and the Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. Dr. Tolisano is eager to work with other agencies to help fulfill parts of the DDS mission.

Commissioner's Update

Deputy Commissioner Drexler reported Commissioner Macy is attending the Annual conference for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. He is a panel member at a Plenary Session on Initiating Comprehensive System Change. The Keynote speaker was Joette Katz, Connecticut's Commissioner for the Department of Children and Families.

Deputy Commissioner Drexler also reported that the department is looking at developing some consistent information regarding the waiting list and issues such as aging caregivers. The department hopes that this will help the conversations to be fact-based and not focused on explaining complex data distinctions or different data based on different data analysis. The Council asked if they could review an early draft of the template so the council can give feedback. The Deputy agreed to share this document once it is developed.

DDS Transformation Activities are underway. The Transformation Committee is made up of representatives from the unions DDS management. The group has identified several areas for activity including the elimination of antiquated hospital beds, standardizing and streamlining forms and looking at contractual services.

DDS has recently completed a five day LEAN event focused on simplification of the Planning and Resource Allocation Team review process.

DDS held a stakeholder meeting on the future vision for Clinical Behavioral Supports with a goal of positively impacting services provided to people with intellectual disability or autism regardless of funding source.

Next week is an event to look at Quality Management processes with an eye towards simplification and using technology more effectively.

Sargent Shane Hassett will be leaving the department and returning to the State Police. In an effort to fill this position DDS will be hiring an Executive Assistant to lead the investigations division. The goal is to find someone with a strong background in investigations.

New Business

The 2014 Council on Developmental Services Nominating Committee will consist of Adrienne Benjamin, Jennifer Carroll and David Hadden.

Old Business

A vote was taken by the Council to keep the 2014 meeting schedule as it is currently meeting every month with the exception of August with the ability to revisit the schedule after the legislative session. David Hadden made a motion which was seconded by Jack Frost. The Council voted unanimously to accept the 2014 meeting schedule with possible changes after the legislative session.

Jack Frost addressed the importance of the meeting ending within the allotted time. Michelle Bacry stated for future presenters she will provide their contact information so the members can contact them directly with additional questions or comments. It was suggested that future agendas include time slots for each presenter to be used as a guideline.

The Council members agreed to email Commissioner Macy at terry.macy@ct.gov questions they have regarding DDS's services and delivery systems by **Friday, November 22, 2013** for discussion at the December meeting.

Ms. Carroll was happy to share that she was a participant in the NY City Marathon and expressed what an amazing experience it was. The Marathon was not only the first for Ms. Carroll but also the first time an individual with Down Syndrome from Best Buddies completed the race. The full story can be found at the following link <http://www.nbc12.com/story/23879483/first-runner-with-down-syndrome-completes-ing-new-york-city-marathon>

Ms. Carroll also offered to organize a holiday pot luck for the next Council meeting on December 12, 2013.

Patti Silva shared that a shopping extravaganza will be held at Good Cause Gifts, 384 Main Street in Berlin Connecticut on Tuesday, December 10, 2013; 4:00 – 7:00. A portion of the proceeds will go directly to Connecticut Hands & Voices.

Ms. Silva expressed her concerned with the lack of disability awareness there is within the school districts and the need of a curriculum within the schools to address this.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Frost and seconded by Ms. Benjamin.