



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Approved Minutes of Thursday, July 11, 2013

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; Adrienne Benjamin; Jennifer Carroll; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Sheila Mulvey; Patrick Vingo

Absent: David Hadden; Jim Heffernan; Dr. John Pelegano; Lou Richards

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Christine Pollio Cooney, Director, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Sergeant Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations

Chairperson Patti Silva opened the meeting at 6:09 P.M.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of May Minutes

Minutes for the May meeting were reviewed. Three edits were requested. Jennifer Carroll made a motion, seconded by Jack Frost to accept the minutes with the changes. The Council voted unanimously to accept the May minutes with the changes.

Presentation: Robin Wood, Family Support Strategies Advocacy Update

Robin Wood presented information regarding Connecticut being one of five states to receive a national grant from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) to participate in a five year *Supporting Families Community of Practice* study. Other states selected were: Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington and the District of Columbia. The project will be administered as a partnership between the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. They will work to identify and implement policies and practices that will serve as a national framework for states to use to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan.

The *Community of Practice* is designed to include ideas, innovations and recommendations from the community. Each state will form a team with representation that includes members from self-advocacy and family organizations, universities, educational, aging, civic and other organizations. Ms. Wood shared that 78 applications have been received to serve on the state team. Space is limited but anyone who wants to participate in the process will be included in some way. A statewide kickoff meeting is planned for September 17 and 18, 2013.

Shelia Mulvey asked Ms. Wood if the areas of divorce and the different family structures that exist today would be addressed. Ms. Wood stated that the families section of the DDS website is being updated to address all areas of the family including how caretakers take care of themselves.

Ms. Silva thanked Ms. Wood for working on this grant and noted that the Council is excited to receive future updates.

Ombudsman's Report – Edward Mambruno, Ombudsperson

Due to an illness Mr. Mambruno was unable to attend the Council meeting. The June Ombudsman Report was distributed to the Council for their review anyone with questions or concerns can direct them to Mr. Mambruno at Ed.Mambruno@ct.gov.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney

Christine Pollio Cooney distributed a DDS Legislative Update that contained a short list of the top bills from the 2013 session. A more comprehensive end of session update will be sent out after the bills have received public act numbers.

Commissioner's Update

Deputy Commissioner Drexler shared with the Council that letters were sent to the providers advising them of the funding cuts that were being implemented July 1st.

DDS has hired Dr. Kathleen Murphy as Director of Eligibility Services and Dr. Peter Tolisano as Director of Psychological Services. David Hadden has been a member of the interview committee for the new Legal Director for DDS and a decision should be made shortly.

Commissioner Macy shared with the council that he met with staff from the Governor's office and the Department of Early Childhood to create a Memorandum of Understanding that would allow Linda Goodman, Director Birth to Three, to work with the Department of Early Childhood to ensure that best practices are followed in the creation of the new Office of Early Childhood. Citizens have a lot to gain by the agencies working together.

Commissioner Macy was invited to participate in the closing panel for NASDDDS conference that was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to discuss how states convert from legacy systems to families and self-advocates first. It was noted that Connecticut is emerging as a leader in the country in this area. A few weeks after the Commissioner's participation in this conference, DDS was notified of the award of the *Supporting Families Community of Practice* study grant.

Commissioner Macy acknowledged the wonderful partnership that DDS is creating with our community colleges and state universities within the state. Southern hosted the Autism Council Retreat. Manchester Community College hosted a training event on Healthily Relationships. The curriculum for the training was created by the Self Advocate Coordinators and Planned Parenthood who together did an amazing job. Middlesex Community College hosted a training entitled "Tools for Providing Person Driven Supports". This program was presented by Patti Scott, Lynne Seagle and Michael Smull. At this event, individual stories were discussed touching on a diverse group of individuals to show the scope of what is possible and so that all the providers could identify themselves among the stories of individuals they support. The event was attended by 101 participants, 40 of which were different providers and 9 of which want to proactively engage in the processes of creating change.

Last year, the department participated in the National Core Indicators survey. This tool allows DDS to gauge how the agency is doing on a national level. The 2011-2012 Adult Family Survey report was released. The report showed Connecticut scoring high in the area of health and safety, and low in the area of choice of staff, case management and living arrangements. The Commissioner stated that the agency must re-examine how we are implementing our new mission which reflects change in these areas.

Deputy Commissioner Drexler reported to the Council that DDS has been in the process of interviewing software companies for a new system upgrade called Advanced Planning Documents that would be 90% federally refundable. Oracle was identified as the preferred provider with IBM second. This system will have built in components that will allow information access to a variety of individuals and will meet the needs of state and federal requirements.

Lakisha Hyatt, Health and Clinical Services Director, will serve as DDS's designee in partnership with Special Olympics to develop safe walking clubs and healthy diets. As programs are developed they will be shared with the Council.

New Business

Ms. Silva would like Council members to be polled on the meeting, date, time and frequency of Council on Developmental Services meetings. Michelle Bacry agreed to poll the Council and report back in September.

Ms. Mulvey suggested that anyone who is living in a community setting with renters insurance should check their policy to ensure they provide alternative housing if necessary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M. on a motion made by Jamie Lazaroff and seconded by Ms. Mulvey.