



**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Developmental Services**  
**Council on Developmental Services**



*Dannel P. Malloy*  
Governor

**Minutes of Thursday, February 5, 2015**

Location: Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Central Office, Conference Room A

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin, Vice Chair; Jack Frost; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Deborah Ullman; Lisa Weisinger-Roland

**Absent:** David Hadden; Jamie Lazaroff; Sheila Mulvey; Patti Silva; Dr. Neil Stein; Patrick Vingo

**Staff:** Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the January meeting were reviewed and approved with changes.

**Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney**

Christine updated and explained to the Council the Commissioner's confirmation hearing process before members of the Executive Nominations Committee. The Governor's budget proposal was presented on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Christine explained the process of Joint Committee on Appropriations bringing in agencies to testify on their budgets. On Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, DDS will have their agency budget presentation. On Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, the Intellectual & Developmental Disability (I/DD) Caucus will be holding their meeting. Allan Bergman may be speaking and the Commissioner may attend if her schedule permits. The Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee did a study on Transitional Services for Youth and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder between the ages of 15 to 25. Testimony on two related legislative proposals are the in process of being drafted.

Christine discussed the group home bills mentioning the Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing. Appropriations and Humans Services will be sponsoring two informational briefings which will be recorded on CTN. Kathy Bruni from the Department of Social Services (DSS) will be presenting on federal Medicaid waivers. Christine updated the Council on the new appointment to the Council for a person with autism spectrum disorder. Christine gave an update on the Waiting List Initiative. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is expected to annualize the \$4 million given to DDS in the Governor's proposed budget.

### **Deputy Commissioner's Update**

The Deputy Commissioner gave an update on the rescissions which will affect DDS. He explained the history of rescissions. He talked about personal services, day services and voluntary services and how they could be altered by the cuts. He answered many questions from the Council who thanked him for his explanations. He said there is no appeal but the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) takes our calls and we will be in dialogue with them for the rest of the year as they understand the seriousness of the reductions to DDS. Christine mentioned an article from CT News Junkie to the Council regarding which items in the budget cannot be reduced.

The Deputy updated the Council on the I/DD Service Improvement Working Group's last meeting. Judy Dowd from OPM came and answered a series of questions from the group mostly about cost issues. The Working Group is planning to start coordinating the outcome of their meetings as they will be coming to an end.

### **Old Business**

Adrienne Benjamin spoke about the DDS budget rescissions letter the Council sent to the Governor on January 30<sup>th</sup> and thanked everyone for their input and Patti Silva for her work in coordinating the letter.

### **New Business**

Jennifer Bogin, DDS Autism Director, will attend the March 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Council would like to invite members of the Nonprofits to come and present their legislative proposals. The Council would like to invite Eugene Harvey, Regional Director of Southbury Training School (STS), to do a video conference along with the regional centers. Rick Lenz offered an idea to help the council members get to know each other better. He created a thumbnail template for each member to fill-in and welcomes all edits.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.