

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES



# DDS

## Council on Developmental Services

*Dannel P. Malloy*  
Governor

### Minutes of Thursday, March 12, 2014

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

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin, Vice Chair; Jack Frost; David Hadden; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Sheila Mulvey; Patti Silva, Chair; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Patrick Vingo; Lisa Weisinger-Roland

**Staff:** Commissioner, Morna Murray; Deputy Commissioner, Jordan Scheff; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman; Katie Rock-Burns, Manager of Special Projects; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

### Public Participation

There was no public participation.

The Council opened the meeting with welcome introductions from all of the members to the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

### Commissioner's Update – Morna Murray, J.D.

The Commissioner introduced herself to the Council and Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner and Katie Rock-Burns, Manager of Special Projects. The Commissioner gave the Council an update on how she and the Deputy Commissioner are getting to know the roles of staff at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and are looking at areas that need improvement and are ready to implement changes to achieve the utmost efficiency. Her two current goals are to decrease the waiting list and increase the number of people receiving services. The Commissioner spoke about her budget testimony before the Appropriations Committee and praised her staff for their excellent preparation. She asked for concerns from the Council and asked what they wanted to accomplish as a group.

The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner answered questions from the Council.

### Ombudsman Update - Ed Mambruno

Ed went over his monthly report and spoke about three calls in detail that he received.

### Deputy Commissioner's Update – Jordan Scheff

Jordan gave the Council some background information about himself and his goals for the Department. The Deputy answered questions from the Council.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the February meeting were approved with changes.

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**Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney**

The Appropriations Committee has an April 30 deadline for committee bills so it is likely they will vote a budget out in mid-April. Legislative Affairs has been focused on the budget hearing, preparation for budget testimony and several bills on various topics that Christine ran through. Rod and Christine will keep the Council updated on the budget testimony via the email distribution list. We have received our list of questions from the Appropriations Committee's Health subcommittee from the Office of Fiscal Analysis which will be addressed at the subcommittee on next Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00. Christine thanked Council members for their testimony and participation at the budget hearing on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Report on (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group - Lisa Weisinger-Roland**

Lisa stated there was no meeting held and therefore no report at this time.

**New Business:**

Jennifer Bogin, DDS Director of Autism, will be presenting to the Council at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council decided to plan a visit to the Southbury Training School (STS) for those members who have not seen Southbury. Margaret Valentino will coordinate dates with the Council members and Eugene Harvey, Director of STS. The Council would like to plan a video conference meeting with Eugene Harvey at a later date. Patti Silva will contact Alex Koenigsberg, Executive Director of Creative Living Community of Connecticut (CLCC) about a future presentation to the Council.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

DRAFT