



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services
Council on Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Minutes of Thursday, May 7, 2015

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

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

Absent: Sheila Mulvey

Staff: Commissioner Morna Murray; Deputy Commissioner Jordan Scheff; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the April 9, 2015, meeting were approved.

Patti Silva opened the meeting in asking Council members to be mindful of the agenda and try their best to keep the meetings within two hours.

Council members opened up a discussion on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) budget. Commissioner Murray explained the various versions of the proposed budget for DDS. The Commissioner reviewed her April 28, 2015, budget update to DDS Stakeholders comparing the Appropriations Committee's and Governor Malloy's proposed budget.

Christine Pollio Cooney gave a detailed update on budget information. Christine explained some of the differences between the Governor's proposed budget, the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget and the Republican's proposed budget. There is a new webpage on the DDS website where budget information from this session can be viewed. The link was emailed to members.

The Council voted unanimously to write a letter to the Legislative leadership and Governor Malloy in support of the restoration of services found in the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget. Adrienne Benjamin, David Hadden and Patti Silva will work on drafting and sending out the letter.

Commissioner Murray spoke about beginning the process of starting a Southbury Training School (STS) study group and the role of the state as a direct care provider. The membership of the group should be decided by the end of legislative session.

Commissioner Murray spoke about the current work being done by the consultant firm of Blum Shapiro to look at reorganization of DDS' financial department as well as the reporting system of the Central Office table of staff organization.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney

Christine announced there will be a public informational hearing held Monday, May 11, 2015, by the Senate and House Republican Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding committee on the proposed tax package that was voted out of the committee.

DDS's sole agency bill, HB 6815, passed the House of Representative and will go onto the senate calendar. Legislative Affairs are still tracking many bills and updates will continue to be provided.

Christine reviewed the good news on the Waiting List Initiative for individuals with elderly caregivers. All 136 individuals who qualified for the funding will be able to receive residential supports and services. As of March 31, 2015, 112 individuals had received allocations and 71 individuals had started services and supports. Some individuals are starting with in-home supports and will transition to a secondary out-of-home support.

The Council welcomed Jen Carroll back to the Council each member introduced themselves.

New Business:

The Council will write a budget letter to the Governor.

The next Council meeting will be held on June 11, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.