



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services
Council on Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Jordan Scheff
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of Thursday, June 11, 2015

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

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

Absent: Jennifer Carroll; Commissioner Morna A. Murray, Ex-Officio; Deborah Ullman; Patrick Vingo;

Staff: Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman; Rod O'Connor, Legislative and Regulations Specialist; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Public Participation

Members of the public introduced themselves as Walt, Laura, Jill, and Peggy and said that they were at the meeting to listen.

Approval of May Minutes

Minutes for the May 7, 2015, minutes were approved with technical changes.

Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman Report

Mr. Mambruno summarized March, April and May's Ombudsman reports for the Council. He highlighted a few cases he worked on and answered questions from the Council.

Commissioner's Update – Jordan Scheff

The Deputy Commissioner updated the Council on the status of the budget. Christine Pollio Cooney gave the Council a hand-out comparing the budget as passed by the legislature with the Governor's and the Appropriations Committee's proposed budgets. Christine and the Deputy Commissioner told the Council the budget is not final until signed by the Governor and answered questions from the Council about the budget.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney and Rod O'Connor, Legislative and Regulations Specialist

Christine and Rod answered questions from the Council on the budget and gave the Council a hand-out with a DDS legislative update. The legislative update was divided into three sections: Bills proposed by DDS, 2015 bills being followed by DDS that passed and 2015 bills being followed by DDS that did not pass. The update is available on the DDS website and a more comprehensive session wrap-up will be forthcoming. Christine explained the implementer bill and the call for a special session which is expected to be before July 1.

Christine reminded the Council about the Connecticut Birth to Three System moving to the Office Early Childhood effective July 1st. Rod spoke about the Seclusion and Restraints bill and mentioned the upcoming name change from the Voluntary Services Program (VSP) to the Behavioral Services Program.

Adriane Benjamin asked about sending a letter to members of the legislature who helped with the budget and maintained critical funding. The Council discussed sending personal or group cards then agreed to writing individually to each member of the legislature who appointed them.

New Business:

No new business

The next Council meeting will be held on July 9th. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.