



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, July 9, 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; Diana Mennone; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Patrick Vingo

Absent: Jack Frost; David Hadden; Rick Lenz; Lisa Weisinger-Roland

Staff: Morna A. Murray, Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative and Regulations Specialist; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Public Participation

Members of the public included Dawn Lazaroff and Jamie Lazaroff, Jamie's parents.

Approval of May Minutes

Minutes for the June 11, 2015, minutes were approved.

Patti Silva introduced her daughter, Bella, to the Council and everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves to Mr. & Mrs. Lazaroff.

Legislative and Budget Update –Commissioner Murray, Rod O'Connor and Katie Rock-Burns

The Commissioner, Rod and Katie updated the Council on the passing of the budget stating we were fortunate as the final budget was very close to the Appropriations Budget. The Commissioner went over the July 1 Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Budget Update handout and answered questions from the Council.

The Commissioner explained the final DDS budget includes funding for approximately eight months of services for high school graduates. DDS is in the process of determining prioritization of individuals who may have a need to start a day program earlier than November 1, 2015. DDS plans to have this guidance ready to share with our regions and the families of high school graduates shortly. Individuals and their families should be in touch with regional staff for the most up-to-date information.

The Commissioner explained to the Council the DDS Voluntary Services Program (VSP) has been renamed the DDS Behavioral Services Program (BSP). The Commissioner thanked the Council for their support and efforts in making an impression on the Governor in getting the final budget passed. The Commissioner told the Council a new Regional Director was chosen for the North Region starting in August. Katie Rock-Burns has been named Chief of Staff. With the guidance of Blum Shapiro, there will be a new DDS Central Office Organizational Chart coming out in a few weeks.

New Business:

- Possible public participation from Alex Koenisberg, Executive Director of Creative Living Community of CT
- The Council discussed visiting the regional centers possibly starting with Lower Fairfield. Coordinating visits as Council meetings or independent visits by Council members.
- Possible visit by Melissa Marshal, Coordinator CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, about housing opportunities
- Discuss inviting Josh Scalora, Organizational Development Specialist, to talk about housing

The next Council meeting will be held on September 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.