



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Council on Developmental Services

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Jordan A. Scheff
Deputy Commissioner

Council on Developmental Services

Minutes of Monday, December 14, 2015, Special Meeting

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; Diana Mennone; Dr. Neil Stein; Patrick Vingo; Lisa Weisinger-Roland; Kevin Zingler; Jennifer Carroll was present by telephone; Morna Murray, Commissioner, Ex-officio

Absent: Frederick Lenz; Deborah Ullman

Staff: Kendres Lally, DDS Director of Investigations; Rod O'Connor, DDS Legislative Liaison

Introductions

Chairperson Patti Silva called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Council members and staff introduced themselves.

Public Participation

No one from the public attended the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Kevin Zingler, seconded by Lisa Weisinger-Roland the November 12, 2015 Council meeting minutes were approved as written.

Topics for Discussion

Kendres Lally, DDS Director of Investigations, explained the interagency system by which allegations of abuse and neglect of individuals with intellectual disability are investigated. She detailed the roles of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) in these investigations as well as the age-range of individuals each agency covers. Ms. Lally gave Council members information on (1) time-frames for investigations, (2) hearing rights for those accused, (3) differences in investigations between various settings both public and private, and (4) number of allegations vs. number of substantiations of abuse and neglect per year. She answered various specific questions posed by Council members.

Commissioner Morna Murray discussed the impact to DDS of the December 8, 2015 deficit mitigation bill (S.B. No. 1601) that passed in the legislature and was signed by the Governor. She detailed the specific allotment reductions to DDS budget line items for both fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Commissioner Murray went on to explain that another set of funding holdbacks would be required of all state agencies to accomplish the \$93 million savings required of the Governor in the deficit mitigation bill. The specific impact of these holdbacks on DDS cannot be

determined until the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) releases the details to each state agency. The Commissioner reviewed the department's plan to RFP seven public community living arrangements (CLAs) to convert to private provider CLAs. Also the plan calls for five residences at regional centers and the Southbury Training School to be consolidated and closed. Commissioner Murray responded to Council member's questions on both the deficit mitigation plan and the plan to convert CLAs.

New Business:

The Council's nominating committee composed of Jack Frost, Frederick Lenz, Patrick Vingo and Diana Mennone gave their report to the Council and proposed the following slate of candidates for Council office: Adrienne Benjamin, Council Chairperson, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Vice-Chairperson and Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary.

Chairperson Silva thanked the committee for their work and proceeded to ask for nominations for Council Chairperson. Patrick Vingo nominated Adrienne Benjamin for Chairperson, seconded by David Hadden. Seeing no other nominations, the Council members voted unanimously for Ms. Benjamin as Chairperson.

Chairperson Silva asked for nominations for Council Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Zingler nominated Lisa Weisinger-Roland for Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Hadden. Seeing no other nominations, the Council members voted unanimously for Ms. Weisinger-Roland as Vice-Chairperson.

Chairperson Silva asked for nominations for Council Secretary. Ms. Benjamin nominated Jamie Lazaroff for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Frost. Seeing no other nominations, the Council members voted unanimously for Mr. Lazaroff as Secretary.

There was a discussion of dates for Council meetings for 2016. It was determined that Thursdays were still the preferred day for meetings and in general the third Thursday of the month was more convenient for a majority of members. On a motion from Mr. Zingler, seconded by Ms. Benjamin, the following Council meeting schedule was adopted: January 21, 2016, February 18, 2016, March 17, 2016, April 21, 2016, May 19, 2016, June 16, 2016, July 14, 2016, August 2016 – No meeting, September 15, 2016, October 20, 2016, November 17, 2016, and December 15, 2016 – Annual Meeting. The motion on the Council's schedule for 2016 carried unanimously.

The Council members enthusiastically thanked Ms. Silva for her work as this year's Council chairperson.

Adjournment

On a motion, the Council's annual meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.