



# State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

# DDS

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.  
Commissioner

## Council on Developmental Services

Jordan A. Scheff  
Deputy Commissioner

### Minutes of Thursday, January 21, 2016

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

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Vice Chair; Jennifer Carroll present via telephone; Jack Frost; David Hadden; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Morna A. Murray, J. D., Commissioner, Ex-officio; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Patrick Vingo; Kevin Zingler

**Absent:** Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Patti Silva

**Staff:** Margaret Castonguay, Executive Secretary; Edward Mambruno, Ombudsman; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

### Introductions

Adrienne Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

### Public Participation

Members of the public were present.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the Monday, December 14, 2015, Special Meeting were approved with edits.

### Topics for Discussion

Ed Mambruno summarized his ombudsman report for the Council. Mr. Mambruno updated the Council on the calls he received about the consolidation process. Working closely with the regions, Mr. Mambruno told the Council how he works with families within a framework to reiterate the goals of DDS, which are to ensure a safe transition providing individuals, families and guardians with the same high quality services they have been receiving. He noted the regions work very hard in keeping everyone fully informed about any changes and the best ways to accommodate individuals. Mr. Mambruno answered questions from 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 spoke to the Council about DDS' Request For Proposal (RFP) plan and the process going forward. The Commissioner answered questions from the Council about the cost comparisons explaining complete information was not available at this time as DDS is working with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to confirm information. The Commissioner spoke about the Southbury Training School (STS) recommendations and the direction from Secretary Barnes for the closure plan. The Commissioner answered questions from the Council.

Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison, gave his legislative update to the Council. Mr. O'Connor told the Council there are two vacancies available on the Council at this time. One vacancy is from the Speaker of the House for a relative or guardian of a person with an intellectual disability. The second opening is from the House Majority Leader for a person receiving services from the Autism Spectrum Division (ASD). Mr. O'Connor explained the new session is a short session which begins on February 3, 2016, and ends on May 4, 2016. Mr. O'Connor distributed a document outlining the upcoming legislative session and answered questions from the Council.

**New Business:**

- The Council will discuss ideas on bringing family and advocacy groups together in a unified voice offering options for common agenda items benefitting consumers such as funding.
- The Council voted on and chose members forming a subcommittee to discuss the public recommendations on STS in order to formulate a commonality of purpose on the future of STS. The subcommittee members chosen were Adrienne Benjamin, Jack Frost, Rick Lenz, Diana Mennone and Kevin Zingler. The Council would like to present their recommendations to the Commissioner and OPM by the May Council meeting.
- The Council would like to discuss meeting before the legislature as a group.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.