



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

Minutes of Thursday December 15, 2016

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

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Vice Chair; Karen Hlavac; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Arlene Reith; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Kevin Zingler, (via phone)

Absent: Jennifer Carroll; Jamie Lazaroff; Morna A. Murray, J. D., Ex-Officio; Patti Silva

Staff: Margaret Castonguay, Executive Secretary; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison; Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative Liaison; Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner

Introductions

Chair, Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Public Participation

Jack Frost, Fay Lenz, Thomas Reith, Rick Rothstein, Stan Soby

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the November meeting were approved.

Topics for Discussion

Deputy Commissioner Jordan Scheff discussed Commissioner Murray's announcement of her departure. He also gave an update on the Draft DDS Five Year Plan. Deputy Commissioner Scheff detailed the continuing work on the department's budget options and budget plan for the current fiscal year 2017, which includes conversions of group homes. With a lawsuit filed to stop the conversions, DDS has cooperated with the judge's request to provide time for impact bargaining. There will be a follow-up court hearing on the lawsuit in early January. DDS continues to put out the requests for proposals (RFP) for the conversion of the group homes. DDS continues to be busy with daily operations and working with individuals who are on the residential waiting list. DDS is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Deputy Commissioner Scheff explained the new ID Partnership, its various working groups, and its tasks.

The Deputy Commissioner also explained the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing (IDASH) Program. The state's departments of Housing, Developmental Services, and Social Services announced a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the development of supportive housing units. The IDASH Program is accepting applications on a rolling basis beginning January 25, 2017. The program will integrate affordable, supportive housing units into larger developments. The purpose of this NOFA is to create new units of permanent supportive housing for individuals with intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities who are on either the Intellectual Disability Medicaid Waivers (DDS) or the state's Adult Autism Waiver (DSS). Another proposal was put forth by the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities on customized employment to help individuals find meaningful work.

The Deputy Commissioner answered questions concerning DDS's and the Local Education Agency's responsibilities for funding of residential placements for school-age children.

Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman

Mr. Mambruno will be invited to present during a full session of the Council to summarize his reports and give an update on current issues.

Christie Pollio Cooney, Legislative Liaison

Ms Pollio Cooney spoke to the Council on DDS Five Year Plan. DDS staff are sorting through the comments received. The opportunity for public comment will be until December 22 at 5:00 pm (30 days). The final version of the plan is due to the Legislature in January 2017.

Advocacy Sub-Committee Group Report.

Adrienne Benjamin updated the Council on the Advocacy Subcommittee Group meeting. She went over the Summary of Agreed to Proposals and her Level of Need (LON) Data Chart hand out. Council members approved the report as written. The proposals will be forwarded onto the Governor.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Rick Lenz, reported to the Council in keeping all existing members in office. Motion brought forward, seconded and all in favor approved.

The Council approved the 2017 meeting calendar dates. Motion brought forward, seconded and all in favor approved.

The Council broke for executive session. Upon returning from executive session, Council members discussed drafting a letter of support for a candidate for DDS Commissioner. The members discussed sharing the draft letter with Jonathan Slifka, the Governor's Liaison to the Disability Community, and meeting with him to discuss how best to present their views to the Governor. Dr. Stein made a motion to draft the letter of support, seconded by Ms. Hlavac. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Benjamin began discussion of topics for the 2017 Council meetings. It was determined to hold a detailed discussion of meeting topics until the next scheduled meeting in January. There was consensus that the January meeting's topic should be a conversation with the DDS Ombudsman, Ed Mambruno.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

New Business:

The Council to have Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman present for the January meeting

The Council to invite The Self Advocate Coordinators (SACS)

The Council to invite the Regional Advisory Council's (RACS)

Council members spoke about forming a subcommittee on dental care for people with intellectual disabilities and possibly inviting Izabella Pulvermacher, DDS' dental coordinator, to present to the Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.