



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 Monday, February 29, 2016**

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

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Vice Chair; Jennifer Carroll; Jack Frost; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Patrick Vingo; Kevin Zingler

**Absent:** David Hadden; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Morna A. Murray, J. D., Commissioner, Ex-officio; Patti Silva

**Staff:** Margaret Castonguay, Executive Secretary; Christine Cooney, Legislative Liaison; Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner

**Introductions**

Adrienne Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**Public Participation**

Member of the public, Rick Rothstein.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the Thursday, January 21, 2016, meeting were approved.

**Topics for Discussion**

Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative Liaison, gave the legislative update to the Council discussing the Commissioner's testimony before the Appropriations Committee on February 18 and the Public Health Committee on February 24, as well as, the follow-up questions from Committee members. Christine reviewed some of the follow-up questions such as the Early Childhood Autism Waiver, dental services at Southbury Training School (STS) and improving services and increasing salaries of private providers. Christine answered questions from Council members concerning the budget and House Bill No. 5176, An Act Concerning Community Residences and Senate Bill No. 132 promoting respectful and "person-first" language. Christine explained how the budget process is unfolding at the legislature. The Appropriations Committee will issue its proposed budget bill sometime in the next few weeks which is the next step in the process leading to negotiations between the executive and legislative branches toward a final compromise. Christine told the Council to check the DDS website for current legislative information.

Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner, updated the Council on the Appropriations testimony answering questions about the recommended budget adjustments. Jordan explained the consolidation of DDS' operating funds and the conversion of residential community living arrangements. Jordan outlined the tasks of DDS to prioritize and focus on the provision of core services to individuals and families. He explained DDS will have some flexibility in managing costs under the agency's new single operation account proposed by the Governor. The targeted reduction will mean that there will be considerably less funding overall. DDS will be prioritizing services and indicating how the targeted reductions will be achieved with the least possible impact on the provision of services. Jordan spoke about the transfer of the Autism Division to the Department of Social Services. Jordan answered questions from the Council concerning rate setting, reimbursement and the recouping of revenue. Jordan explained to the Council the cost comparison data information and how he works with a team from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

**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.

- Analysis of the STS recommendations
- Closure of public facilities
- Cost Comparison
- The Council would like to discuss meeting before the legislature as a group

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.