



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, May 19, 2016

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

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Jennifer Carroll; Karen Hlavac; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Morna A. Murray, J. D., Ex-Officio; Arlene Reith; Patrick Vingo; Kevin Zingler

Absent: Patti Silva; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman

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

Introductions

Chair, Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Public Participation

Rick Rothstein

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the April meeting were approved with edits.

Topics for Discussion

Ed Mambruno reported on a family he was working with in the West region. Mr. Mambruno explained to the Council the needs of the family and the challenges in working with the family and the region to support everyone in the best way possible.

Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative Liaison, gave a legislative update to the Council. Ms. Cooney highlighted the following bills from the 2016 legislative session that passed and are waiting for the Governor's signature.

S.B. No. 132 Public Act No. 16-159 An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services'

Recommendation on Involuntary Facility Admissions is DDS's bill that changes the term "adult incompetent" to the term "an adult for whom a guardian or an involuntary conservator has been appointed."

S.B. No. 219 Public Act No. 16-7 An Act Concerning Probate Court Operations that changes various provisions in the Probate Court statutes including adding to the courts with jurisdiction over petitions to remove a parent as guardian or terminate parental rights and expanding the type of entities that may serve as conservators.

H.B. No. 5255 Public Act No. 16-49 An Act Concerning Guardianship of Persons with Intellectual Disability that updates terminology and makes unrelated changes to statutes governing probate court processes to appoint guardians for adults with intellectual disabilities.

S.B. No. 294 Public Act No. 16-60 An Act Concerning Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability that allows an individual determined by DDS to be eligible for department funding or services, or his or her legal guardian or representative, to request from DDS a copy of (1) the individual's "priority status" for residential services, (2) the request for funding or services submitted to the regional "planning and resource allocation team," and (3) any decision the team makes on the request.

H.B. No. 5050 Public Act No. 16-78 An Act Modernizing the Symbol of Access for Persons with Disabilities that requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to designate a new symbol of access for people with disabilities. The symbol, which replaces the international access symbol, must depict a logo with a dynamic character leaning forward with a sense of movement, be readily identifiable, and be simply designed.

Ms. Cooney also said that **H.B. No. 5176 An Act Concerning Community Residences** that would have allowed municipalities to designate an employee to serve as a liaison between the municipality and any state agency with respect to existing or proposed community residences (i.e., group homes) located in such municipality had died in the House.

Ms. Cooney discussed the bills that had been raised in the **May Special Session** including **S.B. No. 501 MSS - An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017** that made adjustments to the state's fiscal year 2017 budget and

S.B. No. 502 MSS - An Act Concerning Revenue and Other Items to Implement the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017 that implemented the provisions of the budget adjustment bill. Both bills passed narrowly in the Senate and House. This year's conveyance bill, **S.B. No. 504 MSS – An Act Conveying Certain Parcels of State Land**, was also passed.

S.B. No. 503 MSS – An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes and Authorizing State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects was passed by the Senate but still needs to be voted on by the House. **S.B. No. 505 MSS – An Act Concerning a Second Chance Society** was not acted on by either the Senate or the House. The General Assembly still may return to take up the "Second Chance Society" bill and the House may return to vote on the state's bonding bill.

Ms. Cooney answered questions from the Council members.

Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison, explained to the Council what a special session is. Mr. O'Connor clarified to the Council the use of emails for council discussions. Mr. O'Connor handed out the Council membership chart asking members to check and update their information and appointments if needed. Mr. O'Connor discussed how the Council has previously invited members of the Regional Advisory Councils (RAC)s to attend a Council meeting and give reports to the Council.

Commissioner Morna A. Murray, J.D. spoke to the Council about the DDS layoffs and budget cuts. The Commissioner explained how DDS works with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Office of Policy and Management's (OPM) Office of Labor Relations (OLR) concerning the layoffs. The Commissioner said there will be another round of layoffs in the future. The Commissioner spoke about the regional center closures and how DDS staff are working with families. The Commissioner spoke about the budget stating the economic situation looks even more difficult. As in the proposed budget, DDS has been asked to achieve some targeted savings, as well as a 5.75% reduction. The Commissioner spoke about the agency's current core activities as follows:

Programs and Services:

DDS has been tasked with prioritizing and focusing on the provision of our core services to the individuals and families we support. While we will have some flexibility to manage costs under the agency's new single operating account proposed by Governor Malloy, the targeted reductions will mean that there will be considerably less funding overall. A team of DDS managers is working to prioritize services and indicate how the targeted reductions will be achieved with the least possible impact on the provision of services. As a first step, we have identified agency's current core activities as follows:

- ***24-Hour Residential Supports***

Supports and services provided to adults with intellectual disability (ID). These services include Continuous Residential Supports and Community Living Arrangements (CLAs).

- ***Family Support Services***

Provide direct payments to families who have no or minimal residential services to enable the individuals to remain in their family home. This includes services provided to individuals at the respite centers.

- ***Day Services***

Supports and services provided to adults with ID. These services include Day Support Options, Group Supported Employment, Individual Supported Employment, Individualized Day, Pre-Vocational Day, Transportation, and Clinical Supports.

- ***Behavioral Services Program***

Supports and services provided to individuals with ID under the age of 21 with significant behavioral needs through a network of private providers. These services include Individualized Home Supports, Community Companion Homes, Continuous Residential Supports, Community Living Arrangements, Adult Companion, Personal Support, Transportation, and Clinical Supports.

- ***Autism Services***

Providing services and supports to both adults and children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, services that are not duplicative of those covered under our Medicaid state plan for individuals under the age of 21.

- ***Case Management***

The process of assisting individuals with ID to identify and secure services that meet their individualized needs, and to ensure their rights are protected.

The Commissioner also said in addition to this process, DDS will continue to work with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and OPM regarding the movement of the Community Residential Services and Cooperative Placements funding to DSS. Discussions regarding this transition, including how rates will be developed at DSS, in partnership with DDS, OPM, and providers. The transition of rates for CLAs. The Commissioner answered questions from the Council.

The Council discussed the analysis of the Southbury Training School (STS) recommendations. Council members spoke about forming a subcommittee on dental care for people with intellectual disabilities.

New Business:

- The Council will consider forming a dental subcommittee on dental care for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Molly Cole, Director of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities to present at the June Council meeting.
- Council members will discuss the regional advisory council's (RACS)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.