



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, July 14, 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; Morna A. Murray, J. D., Ex-Officio; Arlene Reith; Patrick Vingo; Kevin Zingler

Absent: Jennifer Carroll; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Patti Silva; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman

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

Introductions

Chair, Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Public Participation

Sue Bastian, Fay Lenz, Laura Lynn Lewis, Dawn DeMatteo, Rick Rothstein

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the June meeting were approved.

Topics for Discussion

Ed Mambruno gave the Council his monthly update highlighting how many of his calls and emails are about guiding parents in working with the regions to address the needs of the people they advocate for. One particular call was from a mother/guardian who was having difficulty working with the region on her daughter's medical needs. All was resolved working with mom and the region to coordinate a plan going forward with better communication between all parties and explanations to the mom.

Commissioner Murray gave the Council an update on the regional center closings and group home conversions. DDS is moving forward on the regional center closings using a target date which was necessary for planning purposes. DDS is putting the needs of the people we support and their families first. The Commissioner has met with families herself and said our DDS staff are doing everything possible to ensure the most compassionate, seamless and successful transition possible for everyone involved. The FY 2017 budget for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was reduced significantly during the last legislative session. The department continues to analyze the impact of specific reductions and is doing everything possible to sustain person-centered services and supports to as many individuals as possible.

Commissioner Murray updated the Council on the incident reporting management system. Both DDS and DSS, have taken proactive measures to address, the outcomes of the Office of Inspector General (OIS) audit report. DDS' efforts to improve the reporting of incidents of abuse and neglect, with the focus on improving the safety of individuals, and accurate reporting of all critical incidents. Kendres Lally, Director of Investigations, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner and DDS Information Technology (IT) department have met on how to improve the critical incident procedure and its reporting forms. Training staff in appropriate reporting of incidents that may be the result of abuse or neglect, working with the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA), the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on improving the current system of reporting and investigation of incidents of abuse or neglect are DDS's main objectives. The Commissioner, Kendres Lally and Jordan Scheff, met with Senator Chris Murphy to discuss the recommendations in the OIS report.

Commissioner Murray answered questions from the Council.

Siobhan Morgan presented to the Council speaking about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Community First Choice (CFC) option. Siobhan explained Connecticut is one of the early adopters of the ACA Community First Choice (CFC) option, which permits states to cover personal care assistants and other self-direction supports under the Medicaid State Plan. Approximately 17 states have adopted CFC.

The ACA CFC option added Section 1915(k) to the Social Security Act; implementation required an amendment to the CT Medicaid State Plan. CFC has an advisory council. Connecticut implemented CFC in July, 2015. Participants must be at institutional level of care. For DDS folks, that means eligible for DDS Waiver, living in a 'community setting' not intermediate care facility (ICF)/community living arrange (CLA) or Continuous Residential Supports (CRS). Choosing to self-direct and manage an individual budget, financially eligible for Medicaid under a HUSKY coverage group. Main Service is PCA- person care attendant other services such as Assistive Technology etc. Cost Cap based on your Level of Need. Participants may receive unduplicated services from BOTH a waiver and CFC for example: Day program through the waiver, Personal Care through CFC.

Siobhan answered questions from the Council.

Adrienne Benjamin, Chair, addressed the June 16, 2016, letter "Connecticut's Dept. of Developmental Services needs radical reform written" in the Ct Viewpoints posting. The Council discussed writing a letter to rebut the article which will be put on the September agenda.

New Business:

- Judy Dowd, Section Director, from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will speak to the Council on cost comparisons.
- Council members will discuss the regional advisory council's (RACS)
- Council discussion to propose a committee to write a brief response to the "Connecticut's Dept. of Developmental Services needs radical reform" article.
- Council members spoke about forming a subcommittee on dental care for people with intellectual disabilities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.