



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Council on Developmental Services

Jordan A. Scheff
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of Thursday, September 15, 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; Arlene Reith; Deborah Ullman (via phone); Patrick Vingo; Kevin Zingler

Absent: Morna A. Murray, J. D., Ex-Officio; Patti Silva; Dr. Neil Stein

Staff: Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative Liaison; Yeraida Reinheimer, Executive Secretary; Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner

Introductions

Chair Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Public Participation

Jack Frost, Shannon Jacovino, Fay Lenz, Rick Rothstein, Cindy Stramandinoli

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the July meeting were approved

Topics for Discussion

Deputy Commissioner Jordan Scheff gave the Commissioner's update on the regional center closings and group home conversions. He noted progress had been good, but was slow as DDS is working with individuals and their families one at a time. All but one individual has a plan ready for transition. Further, he let the Council know that 30 additional homes would be converted to private services this year, leaving only 21 group homes that will be operated by DDS.

Deputy Commissioner Scheff gave the Council an overview of the impact of budget cuts on services and staff. There were no service reductions in force the night of the meeting, nor are any to come as far as known. Five-day-a-week day services began September 1, 2016 for graduates, which was four months ahead of the previously announced schedule. DDS's ability to manage its budget this year is largely dependent on the department's ability to adhere to timelines for conversion of public services to private providers.

Invited guest, Judy Dowd, Office of Policy & Management (OPM) joined the Council for discussion on cost comparisons between public and private services. Ms. Dowd answered many of the Council member's questions on what is included in the costs for both the public and private services.

Council members voted to establish a subcommittee to facilitate collaboration with other activist groups.

New Business:

- Council members to form a Nominating Committee
- Council members will discuss the role of the regional advisory councils (RACS)
- Council members spoke about forming a subcommittee on dental care for persons with intellectual disability

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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