



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Council on Developmental Services

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner
Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of November 16, 2017

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

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

Absent: Arlene Reith; Patti Silva

Staff: Margaret Castonguay, Executive Secretary; Jordan Scheff, Commissioner

Introductions

Chair, Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

Public Participation

Jack Frost, Rick Rothstein

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the October meeting were approved with edits

Topics for Discussion

Chairperson, Adrienne Benjamin, Update

Ms. Benjamin suggested to the Council to have a few Council meetings out of Hartford and into the community as field trips. Trips can be to providers or regional centers to tour facilities, visit day programs, employment and other services provided to the individuals DDS supports. The Council agreed and would have a general consensus if the trip was to be a Council meeting. Council member, Kevin Zingler, offered to work on getting options for visits from private providers for tours and mini-presentations to the Council.

Ms. Benjamin announced the next meeting, December 14, was the Council holiday meeting and passed out a sign-up sheet for food and beverages.

The Council 2018 calendar was approved.

Ms. Benjamin asked Council members to check on the expiration date of their Council terms.

Ms. Benjamin allowed Jack Frost to speak to the Council and the Commissioner on the Medicare savings program.

Presentation

Robin Wood, Director of Family Support Strategies & Advocacy

Ms. Wood presented to the Council on the guiding principles of *Charting the LifeCourse*.

Charting the LifeCourse is a tool to assist people in creating a vision for the future. It is designed to help people think about the questions to ask as well as the choices, options and life experiences to consider as people “plot a course” to a full and meaningful life. It is intended to be a starting point no matter where people are in their life’s journey. Ms. Wood passed out handouts and answered questions from the Council on the benefits of the program. Ms. Wood described examples of the various initiatives, programs, and policies across the life span that can be used by everyone in their everyday lives.

Commissioner, Jordan Scheff

The Commissioner updated the Council on his attendance last week at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) 2017 Directors Forum & Annual Conference, held in Arlington, VA. The Commissioner spoke about his appreciation in having the opportunity to collaborate and share information with other state Commissioners and former Commissioners of Connecticut including Terry Macy and Peter O’Meara, as well as former State of CT employees. The Commissioner participated in a round table discussion on the Community of Practice (COP) programs. Connecticut is a senior state on COP and was asked to give an update. In sharing information about Connecticut’s COP, Commissioner Nancy Thaler of PA, was amazed at how CT is successfully utilizing the COP tools and has been able to get other state agencies on board. The Commissioner commended Robin Wood, Director of Family Support Strategies & Advocacy, for her tireless efforts in promoting and utilizing all the COP practices for our staff, the individuals we support and other state agencies.

The Commissioner told the Council a state budget was passed a few weeks ago and many issues are still being worked out. The House and Senate rectified the language necessary to capitalize on the hospital Medicaid money. DDS learned at the same time that there is a large discrepancy in needed revenue. The Commissioner continues to get information and will send out updates as soon as possible.

The Commissioner told the Council DDS has four public respite centers in the West Region, three in the South region and three in the North region.

Once budget updates have been received, the Commissioner told the Council information will be sent to all stakeholders as quickly as possible. The Commissioner is hopeful and has many ideas on how DDS is going to make the most of all situations in this part of the Biennium. He commented that some of the work we need to do is to position ourselves in creating opportunities for the people we support that need something different from DDS than the supports they are currently receiving.

The Commissioner answered questions from Jack Frost on Medicare Savings Plan Changes and said he would forward information as he received it from the Department of Social Services (DSS).

The Commissioner told the Council about Nancy Bilyak retiring as a North Regional Advisory Council (RAC) member since 1979 and praised her for all of her work and said she would be greatly missed.

New Business

On-going Council advocacy

Council field trips

Communication and follow-up with the Governor and the Legislature

Council to invite Scott McWilliams

Bylaw update and approval

Council members spoke about forming a subcommittee on dental care

CMS Community Living Right Changes 2019, Peter Mason, Siobhan Morgan and Robin Wood to be invited

Waiting List