



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 March 15, 2018

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

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair; Pamela DonAroma; Karen Hlavac; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Dawn Oduor, (via phone); Arlene Reith; Rick Rothstein; Dr. Neil Stein, (via-phone); Lisa Weisinger-Roland

Absent: Joseph Duffy; Jamie Lazaroff; Deborah Ullman

Staff: Margaret Castonguay, Executive Secretary; Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Scott McWilliams, Chief of Fiscal & Administrative Services; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison; Jordan Scheff, Commissioner

Introductions

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

Public Participation

Jack Frost; Faye Lenz; Stan Soby

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the February meeting were approved with edits

Topics for Discussion

Chairperson, Adrienne Benjamin, Update

Ms. Benjamin congratulated Council person Arlene Reith on her op-ed article, 'Sell Seaside, don't betray those in need' published March 13, 2018, in *the day* of New London.

Ms. Benjamin discussed the following legislative bills with the Council asking for support to unite the Council to present at the public hearing tomorrow.

S.B. No. 400 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING GRADUATE FUNDING AND THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY', to ensure the provision of quality services to persons with intellectual disability.

S. B. No. 296 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE PEOPLE SEEKING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES', to establish a pilot program to better serve people waiting for residential services from the Department of Developmental Services.

S. B. No. 463 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACILITIES AND RESOURCES PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY', to establish a task force to develop a facility and resource plan to meet the needs of persons with intellectual disability.

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S. B. No. 218 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT PROHIBITING INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES', to prohibit the involuntary sterilization of persons with disabilities.

The Commissioner, Rod O'Connor and Deputy Commissioner, Peter Mason, answered questions from the Council. The majority of the Council members voted in favor of supporting S. B. No. 296.

Ms. Benjamin stated that while there was broad support for S.B. No. 400, especially the guarantee for new grad funding, no vote was taken because of other complications in the bill.

Commissioner, Jordan Scheff

The Commissioner gave a legislative update to the Council. The Commissioner stated Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison, sends out his legislative updates which are extremely informative and allow tracking of the bills and legislative information.

The Commissioner handed out a Level of Need (LON) distribution chart and discussed the information with the Council.

The Commissioner discussed and answered questions concerning the Community First Choice (CFC) program with the Council. The Commissioner stated he is working with colleagues from the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Office of Policy & Management (OPM) to offer support in finding solutions to manage the ongoing problems within the program.

New Business

On-going Council advocacy

Council field trips

- MARC of Manchester - May Council meeting
- Elisa Velardo, North Regional Director will present on Community Companion Homes (CCH)s with families – June Council meeting

Council meeting future presenters:

- Robin Wood, Director of Family Support Strategies & Advocacy, to speak on Assistive Technology
- Scott McWilliams, DDS Chief Of Fiscal & Administrative Services to speak at March Council Meeting
- Win Evarts, The Arc of Connecticut, Inc. Executive Director
- Walt Glomb, Executive Director of the CT. Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Kendres Lally, DDS Director of Investigations & Peter Hughes, DDS Special Investigator
- Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner, Siobhan Morgan, DDS Social Services Medical Administration Manager and Robin Wood on Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Community Living Right Changes 2019
- Steve Morris, Executive Director, FAVARH, to present on Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing (IDASH) program
- Dr. Peter Tolisano, DDS Director of Psychological Services

Bylaw update and approval

Communication and follow-up with the Governor and the Legislature

Council members spoke about forming a subcommittee on dental care

Waiting List

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.