



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 April 19, 2018

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

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Karen Hlavac, Rick Lenz, Diana Mennone, Dawn Oduor, Rick Rothstein, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Deborah Ullman (via phone), Christine Hainsworth-Straus, and Pamela DonAroma

Absent: Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Dr. Neil Stein, Kevin Zingler, and Arlene Reith

DDS Staff: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsperson; Yeraida Reinheimer, Executive Secretary

Introductions

Chair, Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Topics for Discussion

Public Participation

Jack Frost; Stan Soby

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March meeting were approved

Chairperson update, Adrienne Benjamin

Ms. Benjamin conducted introductions; each council member was allowed to share DDS family member's story.

Ombudsman Update, Ed Mambruno

Mr. Mambruno provided an update on his involvement assisting a young man moving into an assisted living facility. It was also discussed assistance placing individuals with camp placements. Mr. Soby from Oakhill stated that Camp Hemlock has space. Ms. Hlavac inquired about the Title 19 individuals who have temporarily been cut off. Other council members voiced their concerns regarding redetermination issues.

Legislative Update, Rod O'Connor

S.B. 165 An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services' Recommendations for Technical Revisions to Its Statutes was amended in the Senate. Senate Amendment A included all of the DDS agency bills. It is anticipated that S.B. 165 as amended will be passed by the House and be signed by the Governor.

A proposed amendment to S.B. 296 An Act Establishing a Pilot Program to Serve People Seeking Residential Services from the Department of Developmental Services has new language around how to make the system more efficient. S.B. 463 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the Needs of Persons with Intellectual Disability deals with the continuum of service issues.

S.B. 400 An Act Concerning Graduate Funding and the Provision of Support and Services for Persons with Intellectual Disability has a fiscal note to the bill will need to go to the Appropriations Committee for a vote. The training portion of this bill appears intended to provide retraining of public staff for redeployment in other areas of the department.

H.B. 5460 An Act Concerning Minimum Employee Wages For Providers Of State-Contracted Human Services could impact the DDS budget by up to 50 million dollars over our current budget.

Commissioner's update, Jordan Scheff

RAC's statewide meeting on May 16 – Midstate ARC will be presenting around the alternatives options and technology. The Commissioner has extended the invitation to Council.

Budget conversations are ongoing. A reminder that we have a current enacted budget.

Self-Advocate Coordinators update – No Excuse for Abuse brochure distributed. They are using this as part of their training. A reporter has agreed to meet with the Self Advocates and discuss People First Language and No Excuse for Abuse.

Our Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs – She has noticed DDS that she will be leaving the Dept to go work in the private sector.

Public Home closure – This year we are doing ten conversions, 9 homes have been converted. One home is taking longer than usual.

Job Fair – We had about 200 people attend the job fair and they will be taking other jobs internally.

Southbury Training School's – The census is currently at 201. We currently have 11 active open cottages.

ID Partnership funds were used in accordance with budget language.

New Business

None at the moment

Tabled agenda Items

Council on Developmental Services Bylaws – council members to review and discuss at the next meeting

Next Council Meeting

MARC of Manchester – The meeting would need to take place during the day, on May 17 from 10 a.m. -12 noon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.