



## State of Connecticut Council on Developmental Services

### Approved Minutes of October 18, 2018 Meeting

**Location:** DDS Central Office, Hartford, CT

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Rick Lenz, Diana Mennone, Rick Rothstein, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Dawn Oduor, Karen Hlavac, Arlene Reith, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Deborah Ullman and Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair

**Absent:** Dr. Neil Stein, Joseph Duffy, and Pamela DonAroma

**DDS Staff:** Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner; Yeraida Reinheimer, Executive Assistant

**Invited Guest Speakers:** Pam Fields Executive Director, MidState Arc, and Andrea Barton-Reeves, Executive Director, HARC

### Introductions

Adrienne Benjamin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

### Public Participation

Fey Lenz

Jill Hall

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July meeting were approved with no corrections. The motion for approval was made by Kevin Zingler and seconded by Karen Hlavac.

### Chair's Report, Adrienne Benjamin

- **Patient Safety Training** – The Patient Safety training that Arlene Reith was set to conduct has been postponed.
- **FAVARH** – Council members had discussed at the July meeting that Steve Morris, Executive Director of FAVARH should be invited to November Council meeting to discuss the agency's use of the I-Dash program funding.
- **Potluck Celebration** – The Council usually hosts a Potluck dinner at the December Council meeting.
- **Legislative Reception** – Following up on a previous meeting's agenda item, Vice-Chair, Kevin Zingler volunteered to coordinate a legislative reception sometime in February or March.
- **Nominating Committee** – A nominating committee will be chosen at the November meeting to interview and chose a slate of candidates for the Council's chair, vice-chair and secretary.
- **Oak Hill** – Ms. Benjamin suggested that the Council invite Stan Soby, Oak Hill's Vice President for Public Policy and External Affairs in January to discuss the #seventimes initiative. A motion was made by Ms. Hlavac and seconded by Ms. Reith to invite Stan Soby to the January 2019 Council meeting.

### Presentations

- **Pam Fields, Executive Director, MidState Arc** gave a presentation on Assistive Technology. Ms. Fields provided the Council with a brief introduction on the various assistive technology options, which allow individuals to achieve greater independence.

- **Andrea Barton-Reeves, Executive Director, HARC** asked the Council members for an open discussion regarding the many opportunities that we have to protect our family members and the individuals that DDS serves. HARC has hired the Presidium Group to work with the agency to conduct a comprehensive agency-wide review.

#### **Commissioner's Report, Jordan A. Scheff**

- **Overtime Reduction** Commissioner Scheff said that DDS was highlighted in a press piece on an Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) report on state agency overtime costs. DDS was cited for having reduced its overtime by 11% in the first quarter of this year compared to the same quarter last year.
- **Waiting List** The Commissioner said that he would report on the department's waiting list and survey results at the November meeting.
- **Wage Increase Bill** A memo from DDS went out to providers with guidance on the provisions of wage increase bill that was passed in May and with details on how it impacts DDS providers.
- **State Meetings with families** The Commissioner said that he would be traveling throughout the state to meet with families. He has scheduled two meetings per region so far.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

***NEXT MEETING: November 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.***