



State of Connecticut Council on Developmental Services

APPROVED Minutes of November 29, 2018 Meeting

Location: DDS Central Office, Hartford, CT

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Pamela DonAroma; Joseph Duffy; Christine Hainsworth-Straus; Karen Hlavac; Rick Lenz; Diana Mennone; Dawn Oduor; Arlene Reith; Rick Rothstein; Dr. Neil Stein; Lisa Weisinger-Roland; and Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair

Absent: Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary and Deborah Ullman

DDS Staff: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner; Krista Ostaszewski, Director of Legislative Affairs; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

Invited Guest Speakers: Stephen Morris, Executive Director, FAVARH (The Arc of Farmington Valley)

Introductions

Adrienne Benjamin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. The Council members introduced themselves.

Public Participation

John Frost, Fay Lenz

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 18, 2018 Council meeting were approved as amended. The motion for approval was made by Kevin Zingler and seconded by Joseph Duffy.

Presentations

- **Stephen Morris, Executive Director, FAVRAH** spoke on FAVRAH's involvement with the state's I-DASH program gave a presentation on smart apartment management for individuals with intellectual disability and the use of assistive technology in these settings. Mr. Morris provided the Council members with a history of FAVRAH's apartment supports and the trends in service delivery behind each of the phases of apartment support. The phases Mr. Morris discussed were "Dispersed Community Integration, Clustered Settings and Affordable Housing, Enhanced Accessibility Features and Common Social Spaces and Smart Apartment Management and Healthy Meal Delivery. The last of these phases has been brought about by I-DASH funding.

Mr. Morris described two apartment complexes being built, one in Canton and the other in Bloomfield, where FAVARH was partnering with a developer to set aside a certain number of units (25% of total units) for persons with intellectual disability. The apartments designated for persons with ID are being built to fully accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities including reinforcing ceilings so that lift equipment can be installed if it is needed. Mr. Morris also explained that FAVRAH would be partnering with Healing Meals Community Project to provide healthy meals to those apartment

residents who signed up for the services. In exchange, the Healing Meals program would have the use of the kitchen facilities in the apartment complex.

Neil Stein asked whether the apartment complexes were near accessible transportation. Mr. Morris said that the Bloomfield location had been chosen for its accessibility to public transportation and that FAVRAH was working with Canton on providing more transportation options to those apartments. Rick Lenz asked whether this service model was cost effective and Mr. Morris explained while there were costs in building these types of apartments, there were cost savings in service provision. Rick Rothstein asked who owned and maintained the apartments and Mr. Morris replied that the builder/owner maintained the apartment complex but FAVRAH had onsite staff who provided services for those individuals who they support. Ms. Benjamin asked if this type of setting complied with the Final Settings Rule and Commissioner Scheff responded that yes it did because the individuals had a lease, could lock their own doors and they were not isolated or segregated from the community.

Mr. Lenz asked about staffing levels for those living in the apartments and Mr. Morris said that staffing was based on the individual's LON and what was required in the individual's IP. Christine Hainsworth-Straus asked about help with meal preparation and cleaning and Mr. Morris said that an individual could receive assistance in doing housekeeping or could hire a cleaner and could chose to have help to prepare meals or purchase prepared meals. Council members thanked Mr. Morris for his in-depth presentation of FAVRAH's plans for supporting individuals in apartments and how the I-DASH program makes this possible.

Chair's Report

- **Holiday Party Plans** - Council members discussed plans for a potluck dinner to be held prior to the Council's December 20, 2018 meeting.
- **Brainstorm for Legislative Breakfast** - Mr. Zingler who is heading up the Council's efforts to have a legislative event at the Capitol or Legislative Office Building asked for suggestions and input on what such an event should entail. There were suggestions that the Council should partner with other groups in doing this event as well as a suggestion on having a lunch time event instead of a breakfast.
- **Nominating Committee** – A nominating committee was chosen to interview and chose a slate of candidates for the Council's executive officers. Members of the Council's nominating committee are Diana Mennone, Mr. Lenz and Mr. Duffy, who will report their slate of candidates at the December Council meeting.
- Ms. Benjamin reported that staff from Oak Hill had agreed to present at the Council's January meeting on the #seventimes initiative.

Legislative Update

- Rod O'Connor introduced Krista Ostaszewski as the department's new Director of Legislative Affairs. Ms. Ostaszewski told the members about her background in legislative work. Mr. O'Connor discussed DDS's decision not to have a package of non-budgetary legislation sponsored by department for the 2019 legislative session. With a new legislature and a new Governor, it was felt that there was no pressing need for specific legislation from DDS.

Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner Scheff told Council members that the transition from Governor Malloy's administration to Governor-Elect Lamont's administration was in progress and that the department had been asked for and had submitted a transition memo to the Governor's office.
- There was a motion made by Ms. Benjamin, seconded by Ms. Hlavac, to recess the meeting for the purposes of an executive session. The motion passed unanimously. The Council reconvened their meeting after the executive session.
- Commissioner Scheff discussed DDS's statewide waiting list numbers and how DDS is currently using data to more accurately reflect the actual needs of individuals and their families. The data that was

shown to the Council members is part of DDS's September 2018 [Management Information Reports \(MIR\)](#).

- The Commissioner Scheff discussed his regional meetings with families and some of the information and questions that were discussed. Council members who had attended these regional meetings said that they showed how engaged the Commissioner and the department were with family issues. The Commissioner said that there would be another set of regional meetings scheduled for the spring of 2019.
- On a motion by Ms. Hlavac, seconded by Mr. Rothstein the Council's schedule of meetings for 2019 was adopted. Council on Developmental Services' meetings in 2019 are scheduled as follows:

January 17, 2019	May 16, 2019	September 19, 2019
February 21, 2019	June 20, 2019	October 17, 2019
March 21, 2019	July 18, 2019	November 21, 2019
April 18, 2019	August 2019 – No meeting	December 19, 2019 – Annual meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING: December 20, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.