



## State of Connecticut Council on Developmental Services

### Approved Minutes of the July 19, 2018 Meeting

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

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Pamela DonAroma, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Karen Hlavac, Rick Lenz, Diana Mennone, Rick Rothstein, and Dawn Oduor

**Absent:** Joseph Duffy; Arlene Reith, Dr. Neil Stein, Deborah Ullman, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair

**DDS Staff:** Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison

**Council Guest:** Walter Glomb, Executive Director, Council on Developmental Disabilities (CTCDD)

### Introductions

Adrienne Benjamin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.

### Topics for Discussion

#### Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Rick Lenz, seconded by Jamie Lazaroff, to approve the minutes of the June meeting as amended.

#### Chair's Report, Adrienne Benjamin

- **Final Settings Rule** –Ms. Benjamin asked if members had read the Final Settings Rule summary that had been passed out at the June Council meeting. Mr. Lenz asked Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason if there was anything controversial in the rules. Mr. Mason replied that there were changes that have impacted how residential services are provided including an individual's being able to choose who he or she lives with which leads to more individuals choosing to have their own bedroom instead of sharing a bedroom. The Council members will be resent the summary and a link to the full Final Settings Rule so that discussion of the rules can be continued at future meetings.
- **Role of Ombudsman**– Rod O'Connor explained that the requirement for the DDS Ombudsman to report to the Council lies within the Ombudsman's statute (Sec. 17a-210a CGS) and not in the Council's statute. The Ombudsman's statute requires that he send a report to the Council monthly but it does not require him to be at Council meetings. A motion was made by Rick Rothstein and seconded by Karen Hlavac to invite the Ombudsman to Council meetings on a quarterly basis. The motion passed.
- **Future agenda items** – Ms. Benjamin asked members for their suggestions for future topics for the Council's meetings. Mr. Lenz suggested a discussion of iDASH and the Department of Housing's (DOH) initiatives with DDS and DOH staff. Pamela DonAroma suggested inviting Pam Fields to discuss her agency's work around technology innovation and direct care. Dawn Oduor suggested that Valencia Bagby-Young, DDS Director of Health Services, be invited to discuss her role in DDS's oversight of individual's health and safety. Ms. DonAroma suggested that there be a future meeting on employment and employment opportunities for individuals with ID. Ms. DonAroma discussed a trend of re-segregating persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in educational settings and suggested that a

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representative of the State Department of Education be asked to a Council meeting. Mr. Lenz said that at a future meeting there should be a discussion of the Council's proposed legislative breakfast.

After discussion of the proposals, the members agreed to: (1) invite Dr. Bagby-Young to the September meeting; (2) invite Ms. Fields to the October meeting, (3) invite a representative from DOH to discuss iDASH and housing options to the November meeting, and (4) discuss employment and employment opportunities for individuals with ID at the December meeting.

- **A Son's Story** – Ms. Benjamin asked Ms. Hlavac to discuss her son's story and his experiences in both public sector and private sector settings.

### **CT Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Walter Glomb, Executive Director of the Connecticut's Council on Developmental Disabilities (CTCDD), introduced himself to Council members and explained the role of CTCDD in promoting the full inclusion of all people with disabilities into community life. Mr. Glomb reviewed the Council on Developmental Disabilities [Five Year Plan](#) in detail. Mr. Glomb explained that CTCDD is federally funded through the Department of Health and Human Services' [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL). Each state's Developmental Disabilities Council Five Year Plan must be submitted and approved by the ACL. CTCDD works in collaboration with its Connecticut Developmental Disabilities Network partners Disability Rights Connecticut and UConn's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Lenz asked if the CTCDD initiatives were pilot programs. Mr. Glomb said that his vision was to pilot various programs and provide seed money to ventures that would then result in sustainable projects. He also is anticipating CTCDD to do more outreach and raise its profile in the community. He described his ongoing efforts to do outreach with a variety of stakeholders. Ms. Hlavac asked what the policy initiatives CTCDD will be putting forward to increase access to affordable, accessible and available housing for persons with disabilities. Mr. Glomb said those initiatives were yet to be decided. There was a discussion on the closure of the Southbury Training School and DDS Regional Centers.

### **Deputy Commissioner's Report, Peter Mason**

Deputy Commissioner Mason described DDS's efforts to work with private providers to prepare for and implement the minimum wage increase required by [Special Act No. 18-5](#). Mr. Mason also detailed how the department is proposing to use the \$5 million emergency placement funding to support step-up and step-down units and a mobile crisis unit to help keep individuals with behavioral health issues from having to be hospitalized. The mobile crisis unit initially will be staffed by DDS employees and then will be transitioned to private provider staff. DDS also is hoping to build private provider capacity for clinical supports. The Notice of Opportunity (NOO) for the pilot programs described in section 2 of [Special Act No. 18-2](#) have been sent out. A Project SEARCH NOO was sent out and pilot applications were submitted by several entities. DDS is in the process of awarding funding for the training and licensing fees for the pilot program. DDS also has put out an RFP to build private provider administrative capacity for Community Companion Homes. Mr. Mason said that he had attended a meeting of the ID Partnership in which the group's goals were discussed.

Rick Rothstein asked if there was a new attendance system for day service programs. Deputy Commissioner Mason said that because of audits of these programs conducted by the Department of Social Services (DSS), certain providers have moved to an hourly-rate reimbursement from a per diem-based reimbursement. This has required certain adjustments in how providers track attendance and payments. Christine Hainsworth-Straus asked how the new attendance system accounted for scheduled medical appointments. Mr. Mason said that if the provider was on an hourly-rate then the time an individual is at an appointment would not be paid to the provider.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

***NEXT MEETING: September 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.***