



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Council on Developmental Services

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of May 17, 2018

Location: MARC Inc.

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Rick Lenz, Diana Mennone, Rick Rothstein, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Dr. Neil Stein, and Dawn Oduor, via phone.

Absent: Arlene Reith, Pamela DonAroma, Deborah Ullman, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Karen Hlavac, Joseph Duffy, Ed Mambruno, DDS Ombudsperson.

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

Introductions

Vice Chair, Kevin Zingler, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

Topics for Discussion

Public Participation

Fay Lenz

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April meeting were approved

Chairperson update, Adrienne Benjamin

Ms. Benjamin discussed the legislative progress made during this year's session. Mr. Zingler praised the DDS leadership for their hard work and collaboration during this legislative as well.

Ms. Benjamin also discussed the LON sheet prepared for Individuals across Residential Settings by DDS Staff. Briefly mentioned that Pam Fields will be attending our next meeting to discuss alternative housing ideas and use of technology.

Ms. Benjamin also asked the council to print the CMS Final Settings Rule documents and read it for a better understanding of the CMS Setting Rules as it relates to the care of our individuals.

DDS is hosting retreat sessions with providers if any council members would like to attend, please contact Dianne Gill at DDS.

Ombudsman Update, Ed Mambruno

Mr. Mambruno was not able to attend this meeting; therefore a written report was shared with the board members who were present.

Legislative Update, Rod O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor told the Council that Christine Pollio Cooney, Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs, was leaving DDS on May 22, 2018, after 16 years with the department. He gave a brief update on the passage of all of DDS's agency bills in the 2018 session. The Council members' advocacy, along with the advocacy of other stakeholder groups, was a critical factor in the successful passage of several bills that will impact DDS's ability to provide services. Mr. O'Connor explained that provisions of S.B. No. 296 had been amended to S.B. No. 463, which establishes a task force to study the short-term and long-

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term needs of adults with intellectual disability and ways in which the services and support these individuals need may be provided. The amendment added provisions establishing up to three pilot programs that use alternative service models to serve individuals with intellectual disability who are eligible and waiting for residential services from the department.

Mr. O'Connor highlighted that with the upcoming elections there would be changes in the state's leadership and that it would be important for Council members to engage with the new administration and new legislators in a discussion of the Council's priorities and DDS supports and services in general.

Mr. Zingler said that he was looking into having a legislative breakfast during the 2019 legislative session. There was a discussion of when legislative committee assignments, which have previously been made in late December or early January, would be made for the upcoming session.

Commissioner's update, Jordan Scheff

Our budget this year is favorable. Beyond the department, a number providers and advocates should be recognized for their efforts as they worked hard to get some of the bills passed.

We have been tasked with spending 5 million dollars on ways to address emergency related situations including over-reliance on emergency rooms across the state. As DDS continues to gather and review input, more solid ideas for its use will be defined.

Related to the wage package, the implementation is not in July 2018; the actual start date is January 1, 2019, and DDS is working to get the structure in place.

The portion of SB 463 that included the prior SB 296 language will be rolled out by DDS shortly after a stakeholders meeting.

Previously, Steve Morris from FAVAR shared information about his Project Search success. DD has put out a notice of opportunity to develop 3 more.

New Business

None at the moment.

Tabled agenda Items

None at the moment.

Next Council Meeting

DDS, Central Offices in Hartford on June 21, 2018, at 5 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.