



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Council on Developmental Services

Minutes of June 21, 2018

Location: DDS Central Office, Hartford, CT

In attendance: Adrienne Benjamin, Chair; Kevin Zingler, Vice Chair; Jamie Lazaroff, Rick Lenz, Diana Mennone, Rick Rothstein, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Dawn Oduor, Arlene Reith, Pamela DonAroma, and Joseph Duffy.

Absent: Deborah Ullman, Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Karen Hlavac, Dr. Neil Stein

DDS Staff: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison; Ed Mambruno, Ombudsman; Robin Wood, Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy; Yeraida Reinheimer, Executive Secretary.

Introductions

Chair, Adrienne Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Topics for Discussion

Public Participation

Fay Lenz, Walter Glomb, John Knudsen

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May meeting were approved - Motion by Mr. Zingler and second by Ms. Oduor

Ombudsman Report, Ed Mambruno

Mr. Mambruno provided the Council with a verbal report of the various constituent issues that have come through his office.

Chair's Report, Adrienne Benjamin

- **Council Bylaws** – Council members discussed and commented on the proposed change to their bylaws. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to align the bylaws with the Council's existing statute. The bylaws were approved as amended.
- **Final Settings Rule** – Ms. Benjamin has asked the Council to read the CMS 8-page Fact Sheet summarizing the provisions of the HCBS Setting Final Rule so there can be a discussion at the next Council meeting.
- **CCH discussion**, Robin Wood introduced John Knudsen, a CCH provider in the South Region, to discuss his experience and perspective on being a long-time DDS CCH licensee. Council members inquired about the background check a CCH provider has to undergo. A CCH provider is required to have a criminal background, a sex offender, and an abuse and neglect registry check. Any other person living in the home must also have these checks before a CCH provider may be licensed. CCH providers also are required to have yearly home inspections and periodic review of health and safety aspects of the home. Financial documentation is audited often. The initial licensing process takes about 4-6 months. Ms. DonAroma also presented on the special living arrangement of the woman for whom she is the guardian which is similar to DDS Shared Living. The Commissioner compliments the LifeCourse milestone this organic setup has developed into. Ms. Wood also briefly discussed her shared living experience.

Legislative Report, Rod O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor explained that there was a veto override session scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2018. He explained that it may be difficult for the legislature to override one or more of the Governor's seven vetos. This may mean that the legislature may not reconvene at all.

Commissioner Scheff noted that there is an upcoming hearing on changes to the three DDS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers. As a result of statutorily-mandated wage increases for PCAs, DDS has amended the waivers to take into account these anticipated increases. There was a public comment period in which no comments were submitted. The joint Appropriations and Human Services Committees' hearing and committee vote is scheduled for Monday, July 2, 2018. DDS has three staff members who will be available for questions at the hearing.

Commissioner's Report, Jordan A. Scheff

The Commissioner answered a few questions asked by Council members about the differences between our waiver funding as compared to funding outside of Home and Community Based Services. He also discussed the issues currently with Allied, one of the fiscal intermediaries (FI) DDS utilizes, how DDS is working to do trouble shooting with them in the short term, and what long term remedies may exist.

The Commissioner also shared that he was nominated and elected to serve on the NASDDDS board. While at the semi-annual conference, he was able to talk with the CMS representatives directly. While the opportunity to engage directly with CMS was promising, there was no clarity provided on some of the most pertinent issues to Connecticut including the final settings rule, nor EVV.

He shared that Ohio is the first Technology First State and is successfully developing its capacities to improve and increase supports in this frontier area. Council members discussed various issues around the increased use of technology in the provision of services to persons with intellectual disability.

Table or Suggested Participation at the next meeting

Mr. Walter Glomb, Executive Director of DD Council, will be present to discuss the DD Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 19, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.