



State of Connecticut Council on Developmental Services

DDS

APPROVED Minutes of the October 17, 2019 Meeting

Location: 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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

Absent: Pamela DonAroma; Joseph Duffy; Arlene Reith; and Dr. Neil Stein;

DDS Staff: Commissioner Jordan Scheff; Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison; and Joseph Carvalho, Executive Secretary

Introductions

Lisa Weisinger-Roland, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. Ms. Weisinger-Roland asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak.

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 19, 2019 Council meeting were approved as amended. The motion for approval was made by Karen Hlavac and seconded by Rick Lenz.

Topics of Discussion

Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner Jordan Scheff updated the Council on several subjects. In November, he will be attending the [National Association of Medicaid Directors](#) (NAMD) Fall Conference. Both the Commissioner and Varian Salters, DDS Self-Advocate Coordinator, will be participating in a panel hosted by NAMD to promote self-direction and self-advocacy and how they correlate to Medicaid. The Commissioner also will be attending a [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services](#) (NASDDDS) board of directors meeting, where he serves as one of four Board Members-at-Large.
- The Commissioner attended a ribbon cutting at [SockStarz](#) in West Hartford with Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, the West Hartford legislative delegation, West Hartford municipal officials, and representatives from HARC. DDS awarded HARC a \$10,000 employment grant through the ID Partnership to assist with this endeavor.
- Commissioner Scheff told Council members that the position of Director of Family Services Strategy, which is vacant due to Robin Wood's retirement, would be filled by next week. He also detailed a call the department had with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) where the department's Medicaid waiver amendments, approved by the legislature's Human Services and Appropriations Committees, were discussed. DDS was advised of certain CMS concerns on the call.
- The legislative Taskforce to Study the Needs of Persons with Intellectual Disability has had its first meeting. DDS will be presenting an overview of the DDS system at the Task Force's October 30, 2019 meeting. Two members of the Council are members of the Task Force, Joe Duffy and Dawn Oduor. A primary focus of the Task Force is on the needs of person's with intellectual disability who are aging. Adrienne Benjamin said that she had been asked to present at the next Task Force meeting as a parent of an individual with

complex needs. Ms. Oduor said that the scope of the Task Force had not been decided as yet. The Commissioner recommended that the scope be narrowed to achieve a better outcome.

- Ms. Benjamin asked if the department had a new Level-of-Need (LON) graph that might better communicate the information to legislators. The Commissioner said that the Management Information Report (MIR) can be used for to provide current information to legislators and other stakeholders. Ms. Hlavac asked the Commissioner about the number of Assistant Regional Directors (ARDs) that DDS currently employs.

New Business

- Ms. Oduor received a request from [Operation House Call](#) through the Yale School of Nursing to allow an APRN to come into her home for two hours of observation and discussion with a family of an individual with intellectual disability. Ms. Benjamin and Ms. Hainsworth-Straus said that they had participated in this program and felt that it was helpful for the APRN students. Commissioner Scheff said that if Ms. Oduor would send the information about Operation House Call, he would have it sent to CT Family Support Network (CTFSN).
- Ms. Weisinger-Roland asked for three volunteers to serve on the Council's Nominating Subcommittee to choose a slate of candidates for the Council's election of their chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary for 2020. Rick Lenz, Rick Rothstein, and Deborah Ullman volunteered.
- Rod O'Connor explained that the December Council meeting would be the Annual Meeting when the chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary would be chosen. The meeting requires a quorum to vote on the nominees. The Council's November meeting is a joint meeting with the Regional Advisory and Planning Councils with the primary topic of discussion the DDS residential waiting list.
- Several Council members need reappointment to the Council. The Governor's office was contacted and the staff attorney said that a resume or a letter detailing the appointee's background should be sent to DDS and then forwarded to the Governor's office.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
November 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
DDS South Region Office, Elm Room
35 Thorpe Avenue, 3rd floor, Wallingford, CT