



State of Connecticut Council on Developmental Services

DDS

Minutes of the January 16, 2020 Meeting

Location: DDS Central Office, 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

In attendance:

Adrienne Benjamin; Pamela DonAroma; Christine Hainsworth-Straus; Karen Hlavac, Vice Chair; Rick Lenz; Dawn Oduor; Rick Rothstein, Secretary; Dr. Neil Stein; Deborah Ullman; Lisa Weisinger-Roland; Kevin Zingler, Chair;

Absent: Joseph Duffy; Diana Mennone; Arlene Reith

DDS Staff: Commissioner Jordan Scheff; Krista Ostaszewski, Director of Legislation, Regulations and Communications; and Joseph Carvalho, Executive Secretary

Introductions

Kevin Zingler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. He asked if anyone from the public wished to speak and seeing none, the Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

Public Participation

No comments were made.

Topics of Discussion

▪ Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 19, 2020 Council meeting were approved with corrections. The motion for approval was made by Rick and seconded by Karen.

▪ Legislative Update

Krista distributed and reviewed [DDS legislative proposals](#) approved by OTG and OPM, also made Council members aware of the [online version](#).

- **An Act Concerning Department of Developmental Services' Abuse and Neglect Registry**
First proposal is a legislative fix for EO2. Simply adds DAS to list of agencies who have access to Abuse and Neglect registry for hiring purposes due to HR centralization.
- **An Act Concerning Green Initiatives for Department of Developmental Services Residential Settings**
 - **Aligns with Governor's priority to adjust and mitigate climate change**
 - Encourages new developments of DDS settings to be environmentally conscious. Language is permissive, not a mandate.
 - Allows for any existing setting to do an environmental assessment performed by DEEP to create a baseline for current residential settings to evaluate where they are, to better identify ways to proceed. Report will be compiled after roughly a year, comprised of findings gathered in that time frame.
- **Department of Developmental Services' Eligibility Determinations for Probate Court Triennial Assessments of the Appointment of a Guardian**
 - A technical fix – 2018 a bill passed, re: determination letters / provision was not extended to triennial assessments.

- **Authorizing Necessary Treatment for Individuals Under the Direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services**
 - allows dds to provide consent to an individual's necessary treatment that is emergency nature if a legal representative is unreachable. Person's attending physician determines if the treatment is necessary and of emergency nature. Physician is also required to prepare a report describing the nature of the emergency which necessitated the treatment.
 - Rick Rothstein asked about definition of "emergency" and Jordan responded.
 - Dawn and Karen had concerns about how contact to the legal representative is being handled in such situations.
 - Kevin moved to table. (perhaps to discuss at next meeting – Krista, Val, Jordan)
- **Access to Abuse and Neglect Evaluation Reports by Legal Representatives**
 - restricts individual's representative from getting A/N report if rep or person living w/ rep is a perp or alleged perp of A/N
- **Camp Harkness Advisory Committee Appointments**
 - technical proposal to update appointments to reflect name changes of entities from which members are appointed from.

▪ **Adrienne would like to propose drafting testimony from the DS Council. Kevin raised the idea of creating a subcommittee to write future testimony on bills the council may support . Adrienne and Rick expressed interest. Those 3 will report back to committee.**

▪ **Members to email to Krista, and commissioners office by feb 1 for responses for legislative proposals.**

▪ **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner opened by updating Council members on story shared about two moms at previous council meeting.

Lunch w/ Governor – went well, had broad conversations over direction of State as it pertains to DDS and opportunities to visit Special Olympics event and Walgreens in Enfield.

HR Centralization –Some HR staff will stay in DDS but report to DAS, some will stay in DDS but report to OLR. DDS relationships with DAS and OLR are strong and have been active partners in the process of centralization.

Movement re: Assistive Tech and Pulselight

Assistive: DSS would like to continue to work with ADS, OEC, DCF, DEMHAS, DVA, DOH, to holistically implement a plan and deploy AT resources.

Pulselight: OIG report was issued 4 or 5 years ago, DDS neededto implement changes. As a part of this process DDS saw opportunity to leverage data and detect negative outcomes that could have been prevented/weren't prevented. DDS continues to work with CMS, Pulselight, OPM, OTG and DSS to expand and refine the Pulselight project.

Discussion of 2020 Legislative Breakfast

- Invitations – email or physical or both?
- Outreach to Legislators – members encouraged to call legislators

- Awards – how many and to whom – for sake of time, Council members to discuss honorees via email (due by feb 1.) Jamie Lazaroff was suggested by Kevin as well as a rising star legislator.
- Donations – Pam provided baked goods last year. Kevin will send email to providers who provide catering services.
- RAC Participation – do we want to have them participate, and to what extent? If so, we need to contact the RACs to determine what to do. Rick will coordinate with RACs when we settle on a date.
 - Date of Meeting – 17th not ideal due to Bishops breakfast. No vote taken on March 17th Date. DDS Staff will explore options and send back to DS Council via email.
 - Printed 7 principles to give to legislators – next meeting to identify goals for this event, what do we want there (awards, hand outs,

Discussion of Topics for Future Council Meetings

- Kevin – by 2/1 – members to submit future topics for future meetings.
- Jordan’s suggestions:
 - Wayne Seidel
 - Ken Cabral

New Business

- Jordan: Canton – met with families (Steve), got letter, shared with OPM and DMHAS to underline tangible outcome of funding. Christine H-S’ son said that her eldest son will be in IDASH.
- Rick: Defecit, Gian CarlCasa rainy day fund comments, 22 mil shortfall, how would that affect providers? Secretary McCaw’s guidance on that is expected to be minimally impactful on DDS grant accounts, etc. Couple areas where we can help without cutting. This can change. Consensus Revenue #s were provided yesterday and look okay.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

February 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

DDS Central Office

460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Schedule of Council Meetings for 2020

Council meetings are usually scheduled on the third Thursday of the month from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in DDS Conference Room A, unless otherwise specified.

January 16, 2020	February 20, 2020	March 19, 2020
April 16, 2020	May 21, 2020	June 18, 2020
July 16, 2020	August 2020 No meeting	September 17, 2020
October 15, 2020	November 19, 2020 Joint Meeting with RACs	December 17, 2020 Annual Meeting