



State of Connecticut Council on Developmental Services

DDS

Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Meeting

Location: Meeting Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance:

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

Kevin Zingler, Chair;

Absent: 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 1:02 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Public Participation

Fay Lenz - thank you DDS for your efforts to support individuals during the pandemic

Topics of Discussion

Approval of Minutes

Rick R. made a motion to approve minutes with amendments, Karen seconded - all in favor

Commissioner's Update

▪ Commissioner Scheff updated the Council on the progress made, challenges that remain, and how DDS plans to reopen services while remaining committed to the safety of the individuals we serve.

o Thank you for the Council's kind remarks about my participation in Arc Town Hall

o More broadly, focused on Reopening ▪ Described reopening committees within DDS and provided updates on reopening guidelines regarding visitation, and employment and day services

o Can't let our guards down but need to mitigate the negative effects of isolation

o CT has done well when compared to other states

o Reviewed data trends, have been relatively flat since the 7th of June

▪ Kevin asked what the process is going to look like during reopening: o Providers are supposed to send plans by June 19.

o July 1 goal is 50% of regular attendance

o Date for day programs - July 15th

▪ Neil Stein - urged caution for the remaining threat of COVID-19

▪ Karen asked about shutting back down again if hospitalization rates increase o Shutting back down is a difficult decision that will be monitored closely. Many factors will be utilized to determine if this will be necessary in the future, including statewide and national case trends.

▪ Also discussed: o Residential Visitation Ban Extension and Expiration

o Employment & Day Services

o Camp Harkness

Pam DonAroma moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:24PM.

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