



Jodi M. Rell  
Governor

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## **Minutes ~ September 11, 2008**

### **Members In Attendance:**

Jennifer Carroll - Chair, Lou Richards – Vice Chair, Jack Frost – Secretary, John Pelegano, Kevin Morey, Sheila Mulvey, Carlos Colon, Patrick Vingo, Peter H. O’Meara - Ex-Officio

### **DDS Staff:**

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner  
Christine Pollio – Legislative & Executive Affairs Director  
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson  
Michael Woodson – Director of Investigations  
Rod O’Connor – Legislative Liaison  
Ivette DeJesus – Executive Secretary

**Jennifer Carroll- Chair opened the meeting.**

### **Public Participation:**

None.

### **OSR Presentation:**

Dan Micari  
Fred Balicki  
David Sokolow

Mr. Micari, Mr. Balicki and Mr. Sokolow provided the Council with a presentation of the QSR process, roll out, and data application system. Handouts were provided to the Council and a power point presentation was done.

They informed the Council that the North Region went live with this program on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. The South and West regions will follow after DDS and provider staff is trained. Full implementation is expected by 11/30/08.

### **Minutes:**

The July Council minutes were approved.

### **Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:**

Mr. Mambruno informed the Council of the following updates:

### **July:**

- Mr. Mambruno received an allegation from an individual who witnessed a DDS staff “taking advantage of” a consumer. He contacted the region; the region promptly asked

the case manager about the said individual. The person who witnessed the allegations did not know the entire story behind why certain things are being done. The consumer has a history of behavioral issues. The department and the guardian are aware of this situation.

- A mother called the office regarding her son's services. Her son is not interested in venturing out of his house (Day Programs/Camp). The Case Manager has tried to involve the consumer, but to no avail. Mr. Mambruno called the mother and sent her information regarding Best Buddies. The mother thinks this is something that might be of interest to him and thanked the office for the assistance.
- Mr. Mambruno received an e-mail from the region asking if he could determine where sex offenders and parolees are placed at an SNF since DDS has consumers residing there as well. Mr. Mambruno placed a call to Captain Woodson, Public Safety, and the Attorney General's office. There is no "list" of sex offenders or parolee who reside in a nursing home. He suggested one way to check is to enter individual's name in the Sex Offender Registry. However, this can be a very time consuming and labor intensive job, albeit a very important one!

### August:

- Mr. Mambruno received a complaint by parents of a consumer involving a very complex set of issues being handled by region in collaboration with CO (Legal and Health Services). The family does not agree with prognosis and is refusing treatment. The Probate Court Judge ordered a specific test, which the mother finally agreed to schedule. He spoke with the region and CO legal regarding what rights the family has if they refuse medical treatment for the consumer. The region and CO legal are protecting the safety of the consumer by requiring these medical tests even though the family does not agree with the prognosis. Additionally, the family wanted a case management change. The region agreed that they should have the nurse consultant attend meetings with the case manager. Mr. Mambruno informed the family that he concurred with this compromise and at this time he thought it would be in the best interest of their son to keep the current case manager due to the complexity of this case.
- The Attorney General's office contacted Mr. Mambruno regarding alleged discrimination by DDS. A parent stated that her daughter is not receiving any programs or services. Mr. Mambruno contacted the region and spoke with the Regional Director who stated that to the contrary, there has been lengthy communication with the mother regarding what types of services they can provide to her very medically involved daughter. Mr. Mambruno received an extensive chronology from the case manager and determined that the mother was frustrated because she could not receive specific services from DDS. He contacted the AG's office to discuss the case. In conclusion they agreed with Mr. Mambruno's findings.
- Mr. Mambruno had a meeting with the Program Manager and Aging Coordinator regarding how to improve communication between hospitals, SNFs, and Long Term Care Case Managers. He met with the Nurse Consultants, OBRA Nurses, and the CO Health Director to discuss.
- He is working with OBRA and the Aging Coordinator to produce a statewide assessment form for consumers including evaluating the physical layout of a SNF. He is hopeful that this will be something that all case managers will use to standardize their evaluation.
- Mr. Mambruno provided the Council with the Ombudsman Annual report and asked the Council if they had any suggestions on improving it.
- Mr. Mambruno informed the Council that the '06 and '07 Annual reports would be put on the web.

### **Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:**

- The Program Review and Investigations Committee are currently conducting their review of aging services. There will be a briefing and a public hearing on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. The Commissioner will be testifying at the hearing. Recommendations are due to DDS by December.
- Legislative proposals: This is the time to compile proposals. They are due by October 1<sup>st</sup> but we plan to submit earlier. DDS may submit 9 or 10 proposals. The proposals are non-budgetary as the Fiscal Department handles the fiscal proposals.
- Thus far, the following ideas are being considered:
  - Consolidating a few budget accounts to promote choice and portability.
  - Technical changes on Birth to Three statutes
  - Rewording of Council statute regarding membership
  - Getting access to DCF Child Abuse and Neglect registry
  - Sharing of DCF Investigations for purposes of the VSP program
  - Statutes related to Volunteer programs within state agencies
  - Repealing the scheduled sunset of the DDS Abuse and Neglect registry planned for 2010
- A special session was held August 22<sup>nd</sup> on energy assistance; \$3.5 million was approved for all human service non-profit private providers for FY'09. OPM will determine allocation process.
- Quick "early" Reminder: the '09 Legislative Session runs January 7, 2009 through June 3, 2009
- The draft amended medication administration regulations were submitted last week to OPM and the Governor's office for feedback. Rod worked very hard on this project and did a great job.
- Legislators are back at the LOB involved in several meetings and hearings on numerous issues, not directly related to DDS.
- Ms. Mulvey asked about OPA and DDS defining abuse and neglect differently? Commissioner O'Meara discussed with the Council members. Ivette is following up and will share information at an upcoming Council meeting

### **Commissioner's Updates:**

- The Commissioner spoke about QSR. It has been a long time coming. There have been lots of technical challenges. This will be one of the most sophisticated systems once it is completely in place.
- The Commissioner explained to the Council about the panic button next to the light switch in the room they meet in and how it works should anyone touch that in error at some point.
- The current services budget plan for FY'10 and FY'11 have been submitted. This includes future ageouts and high school graduates. New funding for continuing the waiting list initiative would need to be a budget option. DDS will be instructed by OPM if an expansion option can be submitted in November.
- DDS is developing reduction options to submit to OPM and Governor's office as requested.
- A 25% reduction on travel and gas use has been requested by the Governor. DDS can only do a 10% reduction without a significant impact on services.

- The Commissioner shared with the Council information about the Trades meeting. Starting in November, the trades meeting will be done via webcast @ UConn Health Center. The entire provider community can join via Internet by logging on. There will be a dress rehearsal in October. DDS is considering possibly opening this up to the Council in the spring. This option will allow approximately 200 logons.
- There is a grant from FEMA to build a curriculum on Fire safety and the plans are to do it via the webcast as well. Training will be for all providers and for staff hired directly by families and consumers.
- During the summer, there appeared to be heightened activity re: high profile abuse cases, fraud, and staff arrests. DDS is preparing a letter from the Commissioner to remind everyone why we are employed and what is not tolerated. We will also remind people about the employee assistance program.
- Mr. Richards brought up the incident about the mom who recorded the abuse to her son and how it was reported for two years and the state did not do something about it. He shared that it is disheartening.

#### **Old Business:**

N/A

#### **New Business:**

- Kevin discussed and shared copies of a letter with Council members related to the issue of no COLA for the providers. He shared how important this is and for the Council to support it in the upcoming year.
- Orientation binders were distributed to the Council with information that would be helpful to them. This will be given to all new members.
- Ms. Carroll informed the Council that the letter to Dream Works Inc. was sent out to the three executives. The letter will be posted on the web as well.
- Mr. O'Connor shared how all letters from the Council will be available on the web and the Council web page has been updated.
- Ivette discussed the process of travel reimbursement and informed Council members that the forms are in their binders. Council members may fax their reimbursement papers to Ivette at (860) 418-6009.
- Reminder: The next Council meeting will be held at Southbury Training School (STS) and there is a tour prior to meeting. Those interested in car-pooling need to inform Ivette.
- Chair Carroll welcomed Mr. Vingo as a new member to the Council.
- Chair Carroll brought up the fact that today is 911 in remembrance of all those who lost their lives.

**\*\*The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2008.\*\*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month @ STS.**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 8:55 p.m.**