

**DDS North Region**  
**Advisory & Planning Council**

February 16, 2011

Meeting Minutes

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Present: Nancy Bilyak, Deb Godsell, John Houchin, Kathleen Perrier, Patti Silva, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Michael Jurzyk, John Van Hare

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from the last meeting were unavailable for approval due to the retirement of Linda Angelica. Linda has retired as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Claudia Neumann, Administrative Assistant, will be attending future meetings and taking minutes.

Claudia will contact Council members the day prior to a scheduled meeting to confirm that the meeting will be held, who is providing refreshments, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Regional Director's Updates/Budget – Dr. Houchin shared budget summary information with the Council. Handouts were provided and summary information specific to DDS was reviewed. John also provided links to the website where the Governor's full presentation regarding the proposed budget can be found. There have been no specifics given regarding what concessions the Governor will be seeking from State employees other than he is looking for \$2 billion in concessions over the next two years. Negotiations with the Unions will be taking place regarding these concessions.
  - Some of the specifics include:
    - Money for self-hired services has been reduced by 1%; this is due to money that is not being spent continually from year to year. The problem has been that people have felt that they are entitled to the money that was budgeted for the following year. The process now is that everything must be in the plan from the beginning. It needs to be ensured that everything that is needed is in the IP. A new request will have to be submitted for anything additional that is needed.
    - Money will be reduced for the pilot autism program by \$150,000. This will be used to develop a "center of excellence" for people with autism who do not receive services from the Department; not for individuals with intellectual disabilities. A study will be done to see what people need, bring people back from out of state, etc. It was suggested that Kathy Reddington be invited to speak at a future meeting.
    - Funding for current services will go from \$21 million for this year to \$24 million for next year. There will be no new residential placements, funding will be for grads and age-outs.
    - Transfer of \$500,000 from DSS for Home Health Services; if there are no home health aides available in the area, money can be provided to hire home health services.
    - Five Public homes will be closed this year. The North Region will be closing two homes. The individuals will be moved within the public system or they can use

portability to move to a Private home. One of the homes will be surplus and the other will become the Putnam Respite Center which will be moved from the Dempsey Center.

- Reallocations – the Department will be getting two IT managers from the Dept. of Information and Technology. DOIT will be split between DAS and DSS.
- On March 2, 2011 a hearing for the Department’s budget will be held: 10:30-11:30 is the Commissioner’s presentation; 3:00 will be public testimony on the budget.
- The DDS website will be updated with all legislation that will affect the Department.
  
- Recruiting New Members – anyone interested in becoming a member of the Council should send a letter to Dr. Houchin briefly explaining why they are interested. Dr. Houchin will forward the letter to the Commissioner who will appoint new members.
  
- Legislative Breakfast – Dr. Houchin has spoken with the other two Regions who are going to check with their Advisory Councils to see if they are interested in participating. The tentative date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2011 from 8-10am at the Legislative Office Building; would like to do a “meet and greet”. The statewide Council will also be asked if they would be interested in participating. As soon as John hears from the others, he will send an e-mail to the Council. It was agreed that if the statewide Council is interested, even if the other Regions are not, we will go forward with the event.
  - Since the Breakfast has been moved to April, there will be a regular monthly Council meeting on March 16, 2011 from 6-8 pm at the East Hartford Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Claudia Neumann*

Claudia Neumann  
Administrative Assistant