

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

March 20, 2013  
Meeting Minutes

---

Present: Nancy Bilyak, Deby Godsell, Jordan Scheff, Claudia Neumann

Guests: Jennifer Carroll, Donna Clauson, Collette Langner, Mary Lou O'Connor, Lori Sandora, Annette Scully, Walter Glomb, Amy Blazawski

Absent: Sara Glad, Florence Guite, Susan Miller, Patti Silva

Introductions were made for the guests of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes were reviewed from the meeting of February 27, 2013. Minutes were accepted with the addition of Collette Langner who was in attendance as a guest at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Regional Director's Updates –
  - There was discussion regarding the Hartford Courant articles that were run recently. DDS presently has many procedures in place that were developed to prevent such occurrences from happening again. Mr. Scheff stated that there will be a response released from DDS shortly.
  - There is no new budget news at this time.
- Creative Housing Project –
  - Mr. Scheff explained that beginning a few months ago the focus and direction of the Council was discussed. It was agreed that a new focus was needed as well as some new membership. At about the same time, the issue of residential options was being discussed and it was suggested that the Council might be interested in working on holding a "world café" event in the Region to discuss creative housing.

At the last meeting there was discussion about beginning to plan for the event and it was decided we would plan for sometime in May. It was agreed that **Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** would be the best date. Jordan stated that he has spoken with Elisa Vilardo from Vinfen who has offered their space at the Artists Collective in Hartford. Jordan will confirm the date and the address with Vinfen. The time will be 6-7 pm social hour/refreshments and 7-9 pm the World Café event.

Mr. Glomb will send an email to the group with a list of things that will need to be done between now and April 1<sup>st</sup>. A flier should be created by April 1<sup>st</sup> and the mailing list should be developed. Notification should be able to be done electronically and the event will be on a first come, first serve basis. The event will be planned for 32 people (8 tables of 4), however, a list of any additional people that are interested will be kept if future events are planned.

Mr. Glomb had asked the South Region for a copy of their questions that were used at the café that they held, however, he has not received a response. Amy Blazawski will follow up.

Ms. Carroll suggested possibly dividing the list of people being invited and calling them the week before the event which may help with attendance. It was also suggested that a particular question be included on the flier or email to give people something to think about and be prepared for at the meeting and to give an idea of what the discussion will be about.

There was a question regarding what is meant by our “legacy system”. Mr. Scheff explained that our current system of group home placement is no longer a viable option due to funding. When homes were originally developed with small groups of individuals living together, they were developed without consideration for future funding. It is now not a sustainable system.

There was discussion of some specific alternate residential options, some already offered by DDS such as CCH’s (Community Companion Homes), and CRS (Continuous Residential Support) settings and also some creative options that families have developed themselves. Also, some examples of self-directing were shared.

The date of the World Café event was confirmed for **Thursday, May 16, 2013**. Mr. Scheff will confirm the address with Vinfen and ask about parking. There will be a May meeting of the Council (May 15<sup>th</sup>) to discuss final preparation.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,  
*Claudia Neumann*  
Claudia Neumann  
Executive Secretary