

# **DDS North Region Regional Advisory Council**

October 17, 2018  
Meeting Minutes

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Members Present: Kathleen Tetreault (Vice Chair); Donna Clauson; Collette Langner; Ron Langner; Lori Sandora; Tammy Selinger; Andrew Selinger; Elisa Velardo, DDS North Regional Director

Guests: Jill Hall; Wayne Seidel (DDS)

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

- Legislative Update –
  - Blended Services Waiver – working on submitting names of individuals who have both Residential and Day budgets but services somewhat overlap so that there is not really a clear line of what is Residential and what is Day and what funding should be used.
  - Assistive Technology funds (\$250,000) – a committee will be identifying providers who will identify people they are already working with to learn how to evaluate Assistive Technology possibilities.
  - SB 246 – there was discussion regarding the requirement that was part of the bill that was passed stating that “On or before December 1, 2018, and at least annually thereafter, the commissioner or his or her designee, shall review the residential waiting list with the advisory and planning councils, appointed pursuant to section 17a-273, and the Council on Developmental Services, established pursuant to section 17a-270”. Elisa will follow up with the other regions regarding how this information will be shared. Possibly a combined meeting can be held in November.
- Regional Director’s Update:
  - Elisa Velardo reported that the Step-Down Unit that is being developed is scheduled to open sometime around the first of the year. It will be located at the Hartford Regional Center in Newington with the capacity of 5 (possibly 6 over time). The hiring of staff is in process. There will be highly trained staff with clinical skills for individual that have ended up in the ER and have had to stay for an extended period. This will allow them to have a place to go while planning for longer term.
  - IFS Teams – working on establishing a mobile response team. We have approval and are in process of hiring additional Family Support Workers in IFS. These are very skilled staff that work with individuals in the family home to step in to assist families that need some additional support (transportation to medical appointments, banking, etc.) to maintain stability and hopefully prevent a crisis situation. DDS is working with 211, hoping to tie in better with that system to better integrate systems, including DMHAS.
  - CCH RFP – Six providers were awarded statewide. Two in the NR – Living Innovations and Viability, are working with the CCH team. Living Innovations specializes in CCH services. We are also working with existing providers around increasing their CCH capacity.
  - Assistive Technology – some open houses are being held next week.
  - HUD Vouchers – Six are available per region; geared toward people in 24-hour settings who are interested in moving to their own apartment.

- Elderly Caregiver Initiative – There has been outreach to families that have been identified with caregivers who are over 74. Residential funding is available based on individual's needs.
- IDASH – Two providers have been identified; still working on development. One of the locations will be Bloomfield.
- Family Forums with the Commissioner – Meetings are being held in all Regions. People must RSVP, but there should be good capacity for many to attend.
  - North Region:
    - Monday, November 19, 2018 – East Hartford Office
    - Monday, December 17, 2018 – Willimantic Office
- Presentation – Kathleen Tetreault
  - Kathleen Tetreault presented and shared information regarding Special Needs Trusts.
- Last meeting there was a request to check the date of the Starlight Ball which may be in conflict with the Special Olympics state games. It has been confirmed that the date will not conflict with Special Olympics.
- CTFSN will present at the next meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2018 at 5:00 pm.
- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Claudia Neumann*  
Executive Secretary