

**DDS-South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2010**

Members Present: Chair Claire White, Nancy Kalal, John (Jack) Frost, Steve Fusti, Diane Martin, Danielle Shepard, Kim Wollschleager, and Mary McKay, DDS-SR Regional Director/Ex-Officio Member.

Members Absent: Carol Cooney, Michael Del Sole, April Dipollina, and Jill Hall.

Guests: Jean Brookman.

I. Chairperson's Report

Call to Order - Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She then thanked the Council for the sympathy card she received on the passing of her mother.

Citizen Comment – None presented.

Review of Minutes - A review of the March 24, 2010, meeting minutes ensued. **In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2010, meeting as presented to the meeting.**

Statewide Council on Developmental Services Update – The Statewide Council will hold its next meeting on June 10, 2010, at Camp Harkness in Waterford. The evening will include a pot luck supper, a presentation by Mary McKay, and a tour of the grounds. SR RAC members are invited to attend. Contributions to the pot luck supper are welcome. Jolie will email RAC members after tonight's meeting to find out who plans on attending the meeting and whether they would like to contribute to the pot luck supper.

Siobhan Morgan provided an overview of the Money Follows the Person initiative at the Statewide Council's last meeting. The program is designed to move individuals out of nursing homes to improve their quality of life. Participants must be eligible for the waiver.

Information was shared on the Special Olympics Advocacy Resource Program (SOAR). SOAR is dedicated to providing legal services and education to Special Olympics athletes in an effort to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities. The program will match athletes with local service providers in the areas of law, advocacy, and life skills development for free. It is being piloted in CT and Arizona. Corporate sponsors are GE and Reed Smith. SOAR will be marketed at the SOCT games. DDS will support the program by

developing and providing on-line training for service providers on understanding individuals with developmental disabilities and by connecting them with DDS private provider agencies. A suggestion was made to include a link to SOCT on the DDS website. Mr. Fusti noted that SO has faced challenges in connecting with school districts and that his efforts to bridge the gap between schools and DDS continues.

A synopsis of bills that passed in the 2010 legislative session was distributed by Jack and reviewed by Mary.

II. Regional Director's Updates

Family Forums – The family forums have been postponed to fall. Planning committee meetings are underway. Details to follow.

Family Satisfaction Surveys -

- **Helpline Survey** – The Helpline Family Satisfaction Survey has been developed and mailed to families receiving services through the IFS Helpline from July 1, 2009 thru March 31, 2010. One-hundred responses have been received to date. Final survey results will be shared at the Council's June meeting.
- **Voluntary Services Survey** – A draft survey on DDS Voluntary Services was distributed. Council members were asked to review the survey and provide feedback. Survey results will assist the Department in responding to legislative inquiries and crafting future services.
- **Conversion Surveys** – The Department plans to gather information on outcomes for families and consumers affected by the conversions of DDS homes to private agency operation. This information will be helpful to respond to legislative and provider inquiries. A committee comprised of DDS employees who have been involved in past conversions will convene to gather satisfaction data from families affected by 2004 Conversion Project. Council members suggested including questions designed to determine if the provider sustained their initial level of performance and the constancy of staff and services.

Budget – The FY11 proposed budget sustains services and funds school graduates and age outs. Challenges include the wait list and VSP. The following Budget Options have been accepted by OPM and will be implemented by DDS:

- Closure of some of the STS buildings
- Overtime cuts
- Bringing out of state youth back to CT

Family Support Grant funding is still available in the FY10 budget. Grant funding can be used for any disability related goods or services. There is a \$5K cap on funding per family per fiscal year. Requests for funding should be made through the Helpline.

DDS Data of Interest – Eligibility, Service Type, WL and Waiver statistics were shared by Ms. McKay at the meeting. Mary will bring additional information to the next meeting to respond to a question about what area of the state people in the 18-20.9 Age Range live in. This information could be helpful in identifying school districts that do a better job of sharing information with families about DDS services.

III. New Business

HRC Membership – The South Region Human Rights Committee (HRC) is seeking volunteers. Interested persons should contact Joanne Bilotta in the Wallingford Office for more information. The HRC meets one evening per month at the Wallingford Office and members attend, on a rotating basis, Program Review Committee (PRC) meetings that are held every other Friday morning in Wallingford.

RAC Membership Updates -

- Marianne Burke has been relieved of membership.
- Diane Martin has been appointed to the Council effective 8/1/10 thru 7/31/13.
- Michael Del Sole, in an email, shared his interest in serving a second term on the Council. Council decision deferred to next meeting.
- The Council will recommend to the Commissioner the appointment of Jean Brookman. The Regional Director will forward the recommendation to the Commissioner on the Council's behalf.
- Jill Hall will be contacted to determine her interest in continued membership.

Nomination of New Officers - Following discussion, the Council voted to accept the nominations of Nancy Kalal, Steve Fusti, Danielle Shepard and Kim Wollschleager for the Council offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Co-Secretary, respectively. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

Review of RAC Governing Statute – Council feedback deferred to the next meeting.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chair White adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

V. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the DDS-South Region Advisory and Planning Council will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., at the Guilford Library, 67 Park Street, Guilford, CT.

Minutes Submitted By:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS-South Region