

**DDS-South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2010**

**Members Present:** Chair Nancy Kalal, Jean Brookman, Carol Cooney, Michael Del Sole, April Dipollina, Jack Frost, Diane Martin, Lori Richardson, Kim Wollschleager and Mary McKay, DDS-SR Regional Director/Ex-Officio Member.

**Members Absent:** Steve Fusti and Danielle Shepard.

**I. Chairperson's Report**

- **Call to Order** –Chair Kalal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- **Citizen Comment** – None presented.
- **South Region Recreation Program** – Chair Kalal spoke highly of the many long-standing recreational activities offered by DDS in the southeastern part of the Region. Through the dedication and commitment of the Region's Rehabilitation Therapist 2, Kathy Baker, many consumers continue to enjoy regularly scheduled dances, bowling and swim programs. Ms Kalal expressed concern that if the state should cut positions in the next budget cycle or experience retirements that these services could be lost. Ms. McKay explained that a few years ago DDS was forced to cut back on recreation staff and services. We now have only a small number of recreation staff in the Region. Because of limited resources in this area, DDS encourages families to take part in local park and recreation events or private agencies that have recreation programs. Ms. Martin noted that she is doing what she can to attract younger people to the NL ARC's program. Ms. McKay said she would look into Chair Kalal's concerns and ask staff to begin developing a transition/succession plan for the Region's recreation services in the event of staff attrition.
- **Review of Minutes** - A review of the September 22, 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 September 22, 2010, meeting as presented to the meeting.**

**II. Regional Director's Updates**

- **Legislative & Budget Update**

Ms. McKay reviewed DDS' proposed budget reduction options by area. A review ensued on how DDS would distribute the proposed cuts in each area should the proposal be adopted in full, or part, by the next administration. As proposed, Public sector cuts would be met through the conversion of CLA's, STS attrition, retirement initiative, and employee benefit givebacks. Many of these areas would require negotiation or legislative action. Reductions in private services would play out through various reductions and delays (i.e. Birth to Three, Adult Day, and Residential Services through the application of LON based rates and delays in High School Grad Funding). Ms. McKay encouraged the Council to view the October Trades Meeting Webcast for an overview of DDS' Budget Options for FYs 12 & 13, which is located on the DDS website under the Video Library Section. Ms. McKay stressed that the budget options submitted are proposals the department is required to submit, and are not final plans. A transition budget for the state was prepared and passed to Governor-elect Malloy this week.

### **III. New Business**

- **Statewide Council on Developmental Services Update** – Mr. Frost reported that at the last meeting of the Statewide Council much of the discussion centered on the budget. He noted that it was his understanding that the transition budget submitted by Governor Rell to Governor-elect Malloy's administration did not single out any one agency. Ms. McKay shared that she had just heard that Governor-elect Malloy appointed a new OPM Budget Director today.

Mr. Frost also reported that the Department received permission to refill nursing positions and that 13 new case manager positions had been approved (SR to get 4).

In regards to the proposed delays in funding for high school grads, Mr. Frost stated that it is his understanding that funding would be delayed to January and that DDS would provide bridge funding to those who really need it.

Next, discussion centered on competitive vs. non-competitive employment opportunities.

- **Vendor Fair** – The Meriden Board of Education in collaboration with area agencies will host its annual Transition Fair at the Sheraton Four Points Inn tomorrow in Meriden. DDS is invited to exhibit.
- **Meeting Refreshments** – Chair Kalal surveyed the group to determine their interest in establishing a scheduled rotation for providing refreshments fat

future meetings. After discussion, the group agreed to brown bag their own refreshments.

- **2011 Spring Family Forums** - Ms. McKay informed the Council that planning is underway for the 2011 Spring Family Forums. Technology will be the focus. Ms. Martin cautioned that terms regularly used by the DDS community are often times misunderstood by families. The term technology might not be readily understood by families to mean adaptive devices and disability-related equipment. She recommended that forum announcements be written in a language easily understood by all. Topics should be described clearly and specifically.
- **2011 Meeting Schedule** – The 2011 meeting schedule was agreed to as presented.

#### IV. **Old Business**

- **Council Priorities for Next Year** – The Council continued its previous discussion on what it would like to accomplish during the coming year. Following, the Council narrowed its' focus to:
  - Legislative Relationship Building
  - Transition Planning / Outreach – targeting 16-21 year-old population
  - Creative Housing Options

In an effort to learn more about DDS transition services and what this council might do to promote and enhance transition planning among families, an Educational Liaison and Transition Coordinator from the Region will be invited to the Council's next meeting to present on this topic.

#### V. **Adjournment**

With no further business before the Council, Chair Kalal adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

#### VI. **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the DDS-South Region Advisory and Planning Council is on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton. **Update: January meeting postponed to 2/16/11.**

Minutes submitted by: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, Executive Secretary, DDS-South Region