

**DDS-South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 22, 2011**

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

**Members Absent:** Michael Del Sole

**Guest:** Claire White

**I. Chairperson's Report**

- **Call to Order** –Chair Kalal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- **Citizen Comment** – Ms. White asked Ms. McKay about the July 1 move from individual budgets to master contracts. The move to contracts was the result of changes to contracting requirements and the need to save money in the area of Fiscal Intermediaries. The Fiscal Intermediary cost of the individual budget is costly and not necessary when the individual is in a typical group day program such as DSO or GSE. Individuals budgets are still used for any individualized day programs. By removing this cost for some, we are saving quite a bit of money. We now use umbrella contracts with agencies and require fewer contract changes throughout the year. It is easier for providers, case managers, and fiscal staff to manage payments under the umbrella contracts. Due to new state procurement standards, all contracts are being renewed at this time so as of July 1, 2011 all providers have a new contract.
- **Review of Minutes** - A review of the May 18, 2011, 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 May 18, 2011, meeting as presented.**

**II. RD's Report**

- **Council on Developmental Services – Invitation to 9/8/11 meeting to discuss DDS Five-Year Plan** – The current five-year plan expires in 2012. Commissioner Macy would like the input of all DDS councils in developing the next five-year plan. Information gleaned from the Commissioner's listening tours will also be considered in the development of the plan. The Council on Developmental Services will hold a statewide council meeting to discuss the Five-Year plan on September 8, 2011, at 6:00 pm, at Central

Office. Each RAC is asked to send two representatives to this meeting. Following discussion, Dianne Martin agreed to participate on behalf of the South. April Dipollina offered to attend the meeting, if no other member is available or interested. A link to the current Five Year Plan is posted to the DDS website on the *Office of the Commissioner* home page.

- **Budget/Legislative Update** – Union voting on the proposed concession agreement between SEBAC and the Administration is underway. Preliminary results indicate that the agreement may be voted down. The implementation of Governor Malloy’s “Plan B” budget could result in deeper cuts to agency and municipal budgets and in the possible layoff of state employees. Funding for high school grads for the next two years is in jeopardy under the “Plan B” option; however, DDS has proposed alternative strategies to allow school grads to be served. The Regional Director’s office will communicate significant updates to the Council, as they develop.

The 2011 Legislative Session closed on June 8. A summary of all of the bills affecting DDS was emailed to the Council earlier today. All four DDS legislative proposals passed during the session. They are:

**S.B. 885 (PA 11-26) AN ACT PERMITTING INQUIRY ACCESS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.** This bill permits charitable organizations that recruit volunteers to support programs for people with intellectual disabilities to access the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) abuse and neglect registry to conduct background checks on volunteers.

**H.B. 6278 (PA 11-4) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER SERVICES.** This bill makes technical changes updating terminology used by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in its provision of autism services and allows DDS annually to make recommendations to the governor and Public Health Committee about legislation and funding needed to provide necessary services to persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The bill also repeals a statute concerning an autism pilot program that ended in 2009.

**H.B. 6279 (PA 11-16) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE WHEN**

**REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.** This bill updates terminology used by DDS and the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) in their provision of services.

**H.B. 6314, (File No. 882- No Public Act No. yet) ACT CONCERNING THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PERSONS PLACED OR RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.** This bill makes it (1) 2<sup>nd</sup>-degree sexual assault to have sexual intercourse or (2) 4<sup>th</sup>-degree sexual assault to have intentional sexual contact with someone when the perpetrator has disciplinary or supervisory authority over the victim who is placed or receiving services under the developmental services commissioner's direction in a facility or program, whether public or private.

### **III. New Business**

- **Executive Board Elections** – Executive board elections were held. **In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the election of Diane Martin, Jean Brookman, and Carol Cooney to the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary respectively for a term of one year effective this day, June 22, 2011.**
- **Membership Vacancies** – The Council will have two vacancies at the conclusion of tonight’s meeting. Parting members include Jack Frost, Nancy Kalal, and Kim Wollschleager. Sitting members are asked to ramp up recruiting efforts over the summer and bring anyone interested in joining the Council to the September meeting. Ms. Kalal suggested soliciting The Family Empowerment Task Force for new members. The Family Empowerment Task Force is an advocacy group comprised of families receiving DDS services.

### **IV. Old Business**

- **2011 Council Priorities – Next Steps**

Transition Planning/Outreach–targeting 16-21 year-old population: Mr. Fusti mentioned that there is a presentation on transition from 2-22 years old happening in Derby tonight. He plans on following up with the presenter to learn more about her presentation and discuss the possibility of her repeating it in other areas of the state. Enhancing outreach to families around Transition Planning remains a goal of this council.

The need to improve communication between agencies and school districts was again discussed. Ms. McKay noted that Governor Malloy has asked social

service agency commissioners to work together on improving inter-agency communications and collaborations.

Creative Housing Options: Ms. Dipollina suggested the Council sponsor a family forum or some other type of localized presentation on residential options. Although the idea was well received, discussion ensued on how the information would be presented given that DDS resources are limited. Ms. McKay affirmed that CT is moving toward creative, shared living arrangements and away from traditional CLA's. One model that DDS is actively engaged in promoting is the Community Companion Home (CCH) (formerly known as Community Training Home (CTH)). Recently, the department issued an RFP for private providers to develop and recruit CCH's. Stipends for CCH operators have improved and as of July 1, 2010, a LON-based supplement is added to the stipend. Additional supports, such as nursing and behaviorists, have been added to the model. Currently six or seven providers operate CCH's in the state. Ms. Brookman asked if a CCH could be licensed for respite only. Ms. McKay promised to research the question and get back to the group with an answer.

Ms. Richardson inquired as to why a portion of a person's day funding under a master contract could not be used by families to create various living options. In reply, Ms. McKay explained that DDS has advocated for this for some time; however, the legislature will not agree to it for accounting purposes. DDS is required to have separate day and residential accounts. If day services money is left over, it does get recycled to others. As to residential, it is important to note that residential supports vary - encompassing more than just CLA placements. The Live-in Companion model offered under the waiver and the CCH model are two such variances. The State of New Hampshire has developed university co-ops that are working well for them. CT should be looking toward this option as well.

The Council agreed that a hosting a workshop on creative living arrangements, bearing in mind that the waiver is meant to supplement natural supports, would be a good way of getting families to think about creative living arrangements and letting them know that DDS is moving in this direction. Ms. McKay will do some research to identify possible speakers for this type of workshop by the next meeting. It was noted that families would need guidelines on how creative they can be.

Discussion centered on PRAT and the process it uses to allocate funds. Ms. McKay explained that the individual's LON and their family needs come into play. PRAT meets every week to review all priority assignments (i.e. Emergencies (E's) and Priority 1's and Priority 2's (P1's and P2's)). It is important for families to come forward with creative ideas because although resources are limited, a significant amount of recycled resources are allocated each year.

In response to an inquiry about DDS Respite Centers, Ms. McKay noted that DDS Respite Centers are funded out of the regional budget. Families who use DDS Respite Centers do so free of charge. DDS grant funding can be used to purchase respite through a private provider if a family decides to go that route. Traditionally, each DDS region receives approximately \$1.2M in family grant funding through the legislative budget appropriation each year.

Following, discussion focused on DDS providers and the processes related to becoming a DDS provider. Information on how to become a DDS qualified provider, and the services offered by current DDS qualified providers, can be found on the DDS website. It was noted that Connectivity offers grants/incentives to employers who hire people with ID.

**V. Statewide Council on Developmental Services Update:** Items discussed at the last statewide meeting included:

- SR Listening Tour
- Five Year Plan
- The Commissioner's goal of greater collaboration between public and private sector

Mr. Frost shared that Commissioner Macy made a point of complimenting the talent and dedication of DDS' employees, and that he found him to be positive and receptive to all ideas for improvement.

**VI. Next Meeting Date:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS-South Region Advisory and Planning Council will be held on September 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton.

**VII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

*Jolie Crescimano-Goss*

Jolie Crescimano-Goss  
Executive Secretary  
DDS-South Region