

**DDS-South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2013**

**Members Present** - Jean Brookman, Carol Cooney, Jeff DePina, Susan Gardner, Steve Harney, Lauralyn Lewis, and Diane Martin, and Thomas Dailey, Regional Director, DDS South Region.

**Guests** - Kathy Bai, Old Saybrook Director of Student Support Services, Dan Micari, DDS Director of Quality Management Services, David Sokolow, DDS Quality Review Specialist Supervisor and Robin Wood, DDS Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy.

**Call to Order** – Diane Martin called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

**Introductions** – All made introductions.

**Citizen Comment** – Ms. Bai was invited to attend this evening’s RAC meeting by Council member Harvey. She looks forward to learning more about DDS and its supports and services.

**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 Jean Brookman, Lauralyn Lewis, and Susan Gardner to the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary respectively, for a term of one year effective this day, September 18, 2013.*

**Approval of Minutes** - Review ensued of the May and June meeting minutes.

*In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the May and June meetings.*

**Regional Director’s Report**

• **FYE 2013 Accomplishments:**

- Statewide, DDS allocated funding to over 5000 individuals and families last year who were emergencies, underserved or with an immediate protective service plan.

While DDS does not currently have residential funding for people on the waitlist and planning list, it has been fortunate to have funding for graduates, age-outs, voluntary services, forensic services and recycled funding.

- Contract Service Authorizations totaled 30,000 statewide last year. Each authorization represents the start, change or end of a service.
- 3600 Quality Service Reviews (QSR) were completed in the South Region.
- Over 3200 Individual Plans (IP) were completed in the South Region.

- Just fewer than 4000 Level of Need (LON) assessments were completed in the South Region.

Mr. Dailey pointed out that a person's LON will drive the cost of services under the uniform rate system and at the conclusion of the 7-year rate transition period; the cost of services will be uniform. What this means is that every provider will be paid the same amount for the same service based on a person's level need and utilization, at the end of the 7-year period. The transition to uniform rates will be a challenge for providers who are currently over-funded and has been a challenging change overall for all providers. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Dailey stated that a couple of providers have elected to cease day program operations due to the change in rates, while CT's rates have brought other providers into the state.

- The South Region placed 44 Emergencies.
- Major renovations to both the grounds and facilities at Camp Harkness were accomplished.
- Therapeutic riding is once again available at Camp Harkness.
- The Wallingford Office has secured new office space at 35 Thorpe Avenue, Wallingford.
- The South Region engaged in its first public/private partnership at the DDS Meriden Campus, in order to bring an individual served out of state back to CT.
- Two homes for teens were opened thru a DCF/DDS partnership. The South Region continues to engage in monthly meetings with DCF.
- The South Region is issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for a transitional team of mental health providers to serve individuals and families.
- 8 people were brought back to CT from out of state placements.
- **Wait List/Planning List** - Both the Planning and Wait List are confusing to families. Some changes to the procedure/process are currently being considered. Currently, the Wait List consists of individuals who are Emergencies and/or have Priority 1 status. The Planning List includes individuals who have Priority 2 and 3 statuses.

### **New Business**

- **National Core Indicators (NCI)** - DDS Central Office staff Dan Micari, David Sokolow, and Robin Wood discussed the NCI project. The NCI project uses a survey to ask people how they feel about the services they receive. Each year participating states produce a random sampling of consumers to be surveyed. DDS' goal is to complete 400 surveys. Because meeting the goal of 400 completed surveys has been challenging, DDS is looking at ways of expanding its pool of survey interviewers for 2014. RAC members interested in assisting the department with this initiative by conducting a consumer interview, or two, should let Jolie know. Follow-up and training will be provided to all interviewers by Central Office staff.

- **Community of Practice Initiative** - Ms. Wood announced CT was one of five states to receive a national grant to focus on family supports. A Community of Practice Kick-off event was held yesterday. Areas of concentration are lifespan approach, community approach, and becoming more person-centered. Ms. Wood would be happy to come to a future RAC meeting or a Creative Housing Parents' Workgroup meeting to do a presentation on this initiative if there is interest.
- **Employment Data** - Ms. Wood reported that employment data is looking better than it has in the last few years. The work on this initiative seems to have paid off. She's available to come to a future meeting to provide an in depth update if there is interest.
- **Membership** - There are three open slots on the Council. On the Council's behalf, the Regional Director's office will prepare and distribute a membership recruitment announcement in time for the next meeting. The announcement will be shared with providers, staff, the FSN, and Ms. Bai, at her request.
- **2013-2014 Council Goals** - The Council did not get to this item.

#### **Old Business**

- **Creative Housing** - The first set of Creative Housing Forums were held on September 10 at DDS in Norwich and September 17 at DDS in New Haven. Both forums were dynamic and well attended. Union 1199 was represented at the forums. They have hired an organizer that is reaching out to families on Wait List issues. Unfortunately, much of the information they are providing is inaccurate. DDS was able to clarify these inaccuracies with attendees. Part two of the Creative Housing Forums is set for September 24 in Norwich and October 1 in New Haven. The series will conclude with "Cafés to Go".

**Next Meeting** - The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is November 20, 2013, at the Clinton Library from 6:00 -8:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jolie Crescimano-Goss*

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Executive Secretary

DDS-South Region