

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2015**

Members Present: Chair Carol Cooney, Jean Brookman, David Cassano, Jeff DePina, Steve Harney, Diane Martin, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Regional Director

Guests: Brittney Gudeahn, April Lambert, Denise Tift, and Heidi Earle

Call to Order: Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Introductions: All made introductions.

Citizen Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes: Review ensued of the November 19, 2014, 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 November 19, 2014, meeting.*

Chairperson's Report:

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** - No meeting last month. At the prior meeting, the group agreed to pursue legislative advocacy and participation in LOB activities.

Discussion ensued regarding plans to renovate a 21-unit apartment building in Westbrook near Vista. The building is contiguous to Vista's future development.

Creative Housing Workgroup meetings continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month at Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 6:00 p.m.

- **Field Activities Update -**

- A 2015 Legislative Breakfast Meeting is set for Saturday, January 24, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., at the Branford Fire Department. State legislators from East Haven to Old Saybrook have been invited to share their legislative proposals for the 2015 session of the General Assembly. The event is sponsored by local chapters of the League of Women Voters.
- Over 60 legislators attended Family Day 2015 at the LOB on January 15, 2015 sponsored by the I/DD Caucus and The Arc Connecticut. Member Brookman expressed the need for more variety among family speakers and raised concern over the event being held the on the day before legislation was due.
- The CTFSN will host its annual Legislative Meet and Greet and Recognition Award Ceremony at the LOB on January 28, 2015 from 9-11am (subsequently rescheduled to 2/4/15).
- Other Family Advocacy Groups include:
 - Our Families Can't Wait
 - Family Empowerment Network
 - Families for Families

- The Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern CT will host a Secondary Transition Expo on March 4, 2015, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Administrative Updates:

- Regional Director Thomas Dailey reported on the following:
 - Status of a new DDS Commissioner
 - Waiting List Initiative
 - FY15 Q1 PRAT Stats
 - Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Final Settings Rule - CT's plan posted for comment
 - Provider Updates (REM, Alliance, UCP)
 - New Medicaid plan regarding Autism benefits. ABA now covered for individuals under 18.
 - DDS Rescissions
 - Changes to DDS Policies and Procedures (Dysphagia and Swallowing Risk guidelines)
 - DDS Family Grant Account
 - Office of the Inspector General Audit of DDS A/N Investigations
 - Trauma Training Update
 - Judy Dowd's (OPM) presentation to the I/ID Caucus on January 20, 2015.
 - DDS Budget Options

Old Business:

- **Membership -**
 - Michelle Weaving has resigned from the Council - resulting in one vacancy.
 - LauraLyn Lewis' first term expired on 1/1/15. The RD's office will reach out to her on the Council's behalf to see if she is interested in serving a second term.
 - Member Kathleen Stauffer introduced two individuals from the New London area who are considering joining the Council.

New Business:

- **Center for Future Planning -** Member Stauffer shared information regarding The Arc's Center for Future Planning, which provides information and assistance to individuals with IDD, families, professionals and the community on person-centered planning, decision making, housing, and financial planning.

Next Meeting Date: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is scheduled for ~~March 18, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in Clinton.~~ **Update: The Council's March meeting is rescheduled to March 25, 2015, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at DDS in Wallingford to allow for Commissioner Murray's attendance.**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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