

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2015**

**Members Present:** Chair Carol Cooney, Susan Gardner, Steve Harney, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Regional Director

**Guests:** Brittney Gudeahn; Denise Tift; Margaret Mummert; Dr. Michelle Rivelli; Richard Rothsten (sp?); and Twila Skelly

**DDS Staff Guests:** Commissioner Morna Murray, J.D. and Robin Wood, Director of Family Support Strategy and Advocacy

**Call to Order:** Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**Introductions:** All made introductions.

**Citizen Comment:**

Citizens spoke about cuts in the Governor's proposed budget. Cuts to graduate funding would be particularly devastating to individuals and families. A suggestion for DDS to reach out and communicate with families on this issue was made.

**Commissioner Murray:** Commissioner Murray had to excuse herself from the meeting due to an emergency. She asked the Council to forward their questions to Mr. Dailey and she will respond to them. Questions posed included:

What is the Commissioner's perception of the DDS Waiting List?

Could DDS determine which families on the DDS Waiting List really want funding?

Could the DDS Waiting List be redefined?

**Approval of Minutes:** Review ensued of the January 21, 2015, meeting minutes. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2015, meeting.*

**Chairperson's Report:**

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** – Next meeting is April 9. Speaker will be Barbara Wolfe. Meetings continue to be held the second Thursday of each month at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 6:00 p.m.
- **Field Activities Update**
  - A high volume of family advocacy initiatives continues.
  - The local chapters of the CTFSN will host two meet and greets with newly appointed DDS Commissioner, Morna Murray, J.D. The first on April 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the Women and Family Life Center in Guilford and the second on April 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Camp Harkness in Waterford. DDS staff will present the suggested Camp Harkness Master Plan following the meet and greet.

- A report on OT costs at Southbury Training School was submitted to the co-chairs of the Appropriations Committee for review. Researched and produced by four DDS families, the report aims to identify areas of potential savings, so those resources could be used to serve more individuals statewide.

### **Administrative Updates:**

- **Regional Director Dailey reported on the following:**
  - PRAT stats year to date
  - Funding priorities
  - Funding allocations year to date
  - Children's services / capacity issues / complex needs
  - LEA outreach
  - Disability Awareness Month activities
  - CMS Settings Rule (final definition issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid on what it means to be in a community)
  - DDS Policies and Procedures Workgroup forming to align DDS' policies and procedures with CMS Settings Rule
  - Status of the Waiting List Initiative

### **Old Business:**

- **Membership**
  - The Council has one vacancy. Guest Brittney Gudeahn expressed her interest in joining the Council. The Regional Director's office will recommend Ms. Gudeahn's appointment to Commissioner Murray on the Council's behalf.
  - Member Lewis' first term expired on 1/1/15. The Regional Director's office was unsuccessful in its attempt to reach her to see if she is interested in serving a second term. Chair Cooney will try to connect with her before the next meeting.
  - Ms. Heidi Earle has expressed interest in serving on the Council. She would like to be considered when the next vacancy comes up.

### **New Business:**

- **High Tech Home Video** - The High Tech Home story featured on WFSB was viewed.
- **Funding Guide for Technology** – Ms. Wood will provide an electronic copy of this guide to the Council.

**Next Meeting Date:**

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is May 20, 2015. **Update: The meeting will be held at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook from 6:00-8:00 PM because the Clinton Library will be closed for renovations.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Jolie Crescimano-Goss*

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region