

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2015**

Members Present: Chair Carol Cooney, Jean Brookman, David Cassano, Jeff DePina, Susan Gardner, Brittney Gudeahn, Lauralyn Lewis, Diane Martin, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

Guests: Kathy Bai, Denise King, Margaret Mummert, and Denise Tift

Call to Order:

Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Citizen Comment:

Remarks regarding a meeting IPP held recently with families on their financial plan were made. IPP is a nonprofit provider.

New Member Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Brittney Gudeahn was welcomed as the newest member of the DDS South Regional and Planning Council. All made introductions.

Approval of Minutes:

Review ensued of the March 25, 2015, meeting minutes. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015, meeting.*

Chairperson's Report:

• **Creative Housing Workgroup Update**

- The group, in conjunction with the Family Support Network, is sponsoring its first ever Roommate Match event on June 4 at Camp Harkness from 6-8 p.m. It will be an opportunity for individuals and families to meet and share information. The evening's format is yet to be determined, but it may mirror "speed dating".

Discussion on rental assistance programs ensued. The Regional Director's office will provide additional details on the Section 8 Rental Assistance Certificate Program in the meeting minutes (see attached).

- The Creative Housing Facebook page is now "open" to others.
- Barbara Wolfe, Wolfe Enterprises, presented a program offering support options to people with disabilities for community living at the Workgroup's April meeting.

• **Field Activities Update**

- The Department of Education, in collaboration with UCONN and the State Education Resource Center, will host a symposium focused on helping school districts improve their secondary transition practices on July 13 and 14. It is the first symposium designed for personnel working in transition.

Administrative Updates:

- **Regional Director Dailey report and discussion on the following:**

- Differences in the Governor's and the Appropriations Committee's budget
- PRAT stats year to date
- DDS Funding Guideline Memo issued to providers on May 7, 2015 (copy attached)
- Emergencies
- Definition of a DDS Grad vs. a DDS Age-Out
- Development of a DDS guideline requesting families to exhaust due process rights with LEAs
- Bloom Shapiro, organizational consulting firm, is helping DDS with waiver recoupment.
- Status of the Waiting List Initiative – 136 individuals served
- Office of the Inspector General Audit
- Dysphagia & Swallowing Trainings for provider direct care staff – South Region Pilot
- Changes to CO Table of Organization
- Development of a positive behavioral support training for parents
- UCP of Southern CT closure
- Changes in Rate Transition plan
- New Waiver Services
 - Assistive Technology – for all three waivers
 - Peer Support - for all three waivers
 - Shared living - HCB and IFS waivers
 - Training and counseling for unpaid caregiver - HCB and IFS waivers
- Status of Day Services for Grads

Old Business:

- **Membership**

- Members Lewis and DePina confirmed their intent to serve another three-year term.

New Business:

None presented.

Next Meeting Date:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is June 17, 2015, at the Acton Library, Old Saybrook, CT.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Jolie Crescimano-Goss, Executive Secretary, DDS South Region