

MINUTES

Statewide meeting of the

DDS Regional Advisory and Planning Councils

Hosted by the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council

DDS South Region, 35 Thorpe Avenue, Wallingford, CT

May 16, 2018

6:00 PM

DDS South RAC Members Present: David Cassano, Dawn DeMatteo, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralyn Lewis, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Director

DDS North RAC Members Present: Collette Bement Langner, Donna Clauson, Joe Duffy, Ron Langner, Rick Rothstein, Lori Sandora, Annette Scully, Tammy Selinger, Andrew Selinger, Kathleen Tetreault, and Elisa Velardo, DDS North Region Director

DDS West RAC Members Present: Sue Bastien, Charles Bergamo, Laurie Chiappiniello, Marina Derman, Roger McNealy, Jr., Karen Simon, and Cindy Stramendinoli

Guests: Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason, Adrienne Benjamin, Frankie Cassano, Carol Cooney, Denise Tift, Antonia Edwards, and Dawne Odour, Pam Fields, Nancy McNealy, Roger McNealy, Sr.

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary

Call to Order: Vice Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Welcome: Vice Chair Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their interest in tonight's presentation on provider transformation.

Introductions: All made introductions.

Citizen Comment: Mr. Roger McNealy commented that he was recently appointed to serve on the DDS West Region Advisory and Planning Council.

Review/Approval of Minutes: *Upon a motion duly made and seconded the DDS South Region Advisory and Planning Council voted to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2018, meeting.*

Addendum: The minutes of the April 18, 2018, DDS North Region Advisory and Planning Council meeting are approved.

Regional Directors' Updates

Regional Directors Dailey and Velardo thanked the Councils for their advocacy at the legislative level – it has made a difference. It is a better time for DDS from a budgetary standpoint. DDS is likely to be allocated \$5M in annualized funding to address emergency related situations with an eye toward reducing ER visits and long-term hospital admissions by increasing our capacity to

serve people in crisis. Retreat sessions for families, providers, and individuals are being held to come up with recommendations for tackling this problem. Anyone interested in attending one of next week's retreats should contact Regional Director Dailey's office at 203-294-5053.

Tonight's presentation will demonstrate one provider's plans---Mid-State Arc--- to address the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' 2019 Final Settings Rule for states participating in the Federal Home and Community Based Waiver Program.

In response to an inquiry, discussion ensued on case manager vacancies. DDS is in the process of bringing a number of new staff on board now.

Next, Deputy Commissioner Mason reported the following:

- Increase for private providers this year. DDS is hopeful that the increase will create some stability for providers.
- Plans for the development of supportive housing complexes are underway. They will be integrated settings with 25% of the complex being set aside for people with ID or other disabilities.
- DDS has issued a CCH RFP in an effort to build CCH provider capacity.
- DDS has been fortunate this year from a budgetary perspective; however, it is important to note that this comes on the heels of being underfunded for many years.
- DDS has lost approximately 800 staff/positions in the last few years due to retirements and lay-offs. During this time, the workforce has decreased from approximately 3400 to 2600 in the last few years.

Provider Transformation Presentation: Presented by Pam Fields, Mid-State Arc CEO. Ms. Fields presented on the work her agency has done over the last three years to position itself to comply with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Final Settings Rule. Ms. Fields is leading her agency in transitioning from a service model to a support model to enable each person to achieve his/her highest level of independence within the community. A copy of tonight's presentation will be distributed via email following the meeting.

Open Discussion/Announcements: DDS South RAC member Gudeahn spoke about her experience as resident of a Community Living Arrangement. She is eager to move to an apartment of her own.

Next Meeting of the DDS South RAC: June 20, 2018

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

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