

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2018**

Members Present: Leslie Bridges-Parent, David Cassano, Dawn DeMatteo, Jeffrey DePina, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralyn Lewis, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Director

Guest: Denise Tift

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

Citizen Comment: None.

Review/Approval of minutes: *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the council voted to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2018, meeting.*

Chairman's Report:

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update:** The Council decided to remove this topic from the list of standing agenda items going forward. The composition of the RAC membership has changed and no longer includes a representative of the Creative Housing Workgroup.
- **Field Activity Report:** Member Lewis reported on happenings at the legislative level. There is one month left to the legislative session. Bills of particular importance to the ID community include:
 - SB400 – Relating to annualizing grad funding and pay increases for direct care workers
 - SB463 – Regarding the development of a taskforce to address IDD/Behavioral issues, ER drop-offs, and psych admissions
 - SB296 – Regarding the development of a pilot program to allow individuals the opportunity to try difference placement options (technology, CCH)

Regional Director Dailey spoke about a presentation that he attended on provider transformation by Mid-State Arc.

DDS Administrative Updates: Regional Director Dailey provided an update on current DDS activities, initiatives, and issues including:

- DDS Budget
- CCH Placements and licensee incentives
- Retroactive funding for under the rate providers
- Cancellation of Provider furlough days

- Eradication of the Day wait list
- Grad updates
- Shortage of GSE Programs
- DDS Support Surveys and funding limits
- Increase in IHS rates to incent providers to offer IHS services – retro to July
- 2018 DDS Retreat Sessions
- Reopening BSP to admissions
- CCH RFP
- CRS challenges
- Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services' Final Settings Rule 2020

New Business:

- **Upcoming Presentations:** The Council is interested in scheduling the following presentations for a future meeting:
 - Provider Transformation (Mid-State Arc)
 - CCH Program (CCH licensee)
- **RAC Membership:** Member Britney Gudeahn's first term of membership expires on 5/1/18. Ms. Gudeahn indicated her intent to serve a second term of membership. The Council has one vacancy at this time.

Open Discussion/Announcements:

- Vice Chair Lewis encouraged fellow Council members to visit the Family Connections page on the DDS website. There is a lot of good information on the site and plans are underway to expand the content.
- Special Olympics Connecticut held its 50th Anniversary Golden Gala on March 21, 2018, at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.
- The Arc New London County Film Festival will be held on April 26, 2018, from 5:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Ledyard. See Britney to purchase tickets or visit the Arc's website for more information.
- Discussion ensued on the challenges many members of the DDS community face when it comes to transportation. Council members shared personal stories about challenges they have faced with transportation. More needs to be done to address this ongoing issue.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2018

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

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