

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2018**

Members Present: Leslie Bridges-Parent, David Cassano, Lauralyn Lewis, Brittany Gudeahn, Carol Clooney, Heidi Earle and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Director

Public Present: none

Scribe: David Cassano

Call to Order: called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Citizen Comment: Member Earle shared that her son Jacob was graduating and had successfully received funding for day services.

Approval of minutes: *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the council voted to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting.*

Chairman's Report

Field Activity Report: Member Lewis shared information about task forces that were being prepared on various topics including evolving needs for elder care as well as options on individuals requiring more behavioral supports. The focus on the summer months will be to visit with legislators back in district.

DDS Administrative Updates: Regional Director Daily provided an update on current DDS activities and initiatives.

- Proposals for 6 additional Community Companion Homes were being reviewed.
- The plan calls for up to 16 additional CCHs to be funded for next year.
- Retreats were recently concluded that had over 200 participants including clients, parents and service providers. Recommendations were made regarding step up/step down facilities, emergency housing options, respite options and other critical needs. Many of the recommendations made in these retreats are currently in the process of being implemented.
- Fiscal year end statistics were reviewed with the RAC. Preliminary numbers seemed to reflect increased levels of services were provided this year over last year primarily due to funding that had been forthcoming for more of the fiscal year.
- Case manager new hires and transition managers continue to be hired filling needed staff positions
- Camp Harkness is fully operational and summer staff has been hired
- New IP process across DDS is being implemented

- Additional Family Grant funding was made available and allocated for this fiscal year.

New Business:

Nominations were made for officers of the DDS South Region RAC. Nominees will be voted on at our next meeting in September. Nominees are:

Chairman: Dave Cassano

Vice Chairman: Leslie Bridges-Parent

Secretary: Heidi Earle

Next Meeting: September 19, 2018, 6:00 PM Action Library, Old Saybrook, CT

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by;

David Cassano

David Cassano, DDS South Region Advisory Council Secretary