

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Henry Carter Hull Library
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2019**

Members Present: Chair David Cassano, Robin Brewer, Leslie Bridges-Parent, Carol Cooney, Heidi Earle, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Director

Public Present: Lauralyn Lewis

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Region Executive Secretary

Chairperson's Report:

- **Call to Order** – The meeting called to order at 6:04 PM. All made introductions.
- **Citizen Comment** – Ms. Lewis commented on the legislative advocacy activities of CT DDS Families First, which is comprised of DDS families advocating for ID in Connecticut.

Ms. Bridges-Parent commented on her concern for the safety of individuals residing in ICFs and CLAs during transport and the need for stronger staff training in this area.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the May 2019 meeting.*
- **Field Activity Report** – FY20-21 budget passed.

Regional Director's Updates: Regional Director Dailey shared the following updates:

- FY20-21 budget finalized → favorable to DDS for the most part
- LON and guardian stipend billed died in committee
- Supported decision making bill died in committee, but will be revisited
- Repeal of CCH room and board language passed → it's a good thing for DDS
- HB7424 passed - Allows providers subject to cost settlement the ability to retain 20% of their savings
- SB945 passed - Allows OPM to pilot incentive program that selects eight non-profit providers to retain a portion of their savings. Providers must serve people with ID, physical/mental disabilities, or ASD
- HB1093 passed- Creates taskforce to study employment opportunities for persons with ID
- Waitlist Initiatives → CCH, elderly caregiver
- \$5.6M Emergency Initiative Update → activities designed to avert emergencies and hospital admissions:
 - DDS Step-Down Unit is operational
 - Enhanced IFS Teams are on board statewide
 - DCF/DDS Collaboration for Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Service
 - Clifford Beers/DDS Collaboration for Intensive Care Management

- RFP for three emergency transitional housing sites issued (Meriden, Norwich, and Wilton)
- Enhanced Family Support Services Brochure→aligned with 211
- Interagency outreach and education→Understanding DDS Presentation
- Hardship funding and rate increase for DDS Providers
- DDS policy and procedures related to the provider discharge process on
- Management of DDS' respite centers to shift from the Division of Public Services to the IFS Division effective June 21, 2019
- IP Repository
- IEP Direct
- Staffing

New Business: Council members agreed to ramp up member recruitment efforts.

Council Open Discussion: Discussion ensued on the DDS census and STS.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region

Next Meeting: September 18, 2019 / 6:00 PM / Henry Carter Hull Library, Clinton