

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Henry Carter Hull Library  
Meeting Minutes  
May 15, 2019**

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

**Public Present:** Douglas Lavery, Kim McGrath, Jerad Ripley, Keith Bishop, Kim Wollschleager, and Diane Martin

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

**Chairperson's Report:**

- **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM. All made introductions.
- **Citizen Comment** – Comments made on the need for additional guidance from DDS on the implications of the room and board tax issue for CCH providers.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the March 2019 meeting.*
- **Field Activity Report** – Vice Chair Bridges-Parent reported.
  - **SB393 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' LEVEL OF NEED ASSESSMENT** passed Appropriations Committee.

**Psychology Services Presentation:** Dr. Dawne Recinos, DDS SR Clinical Director, presented on DDS Psychology Services. Resources and services include:

- DDS staff psychologists and behaviorists
- Private provider consultations
- Functional assessments
- Behavior plans
- Psycho/social assessments
- Referrals to community services
- Forensic consultations
- Competency evaluations, restoration services, and presentations to Court as needed
- Guardianship issues
- Large pool of staff providing services to individuals served in DDS-operated settings
- Court appointed assessments of individuals not known to DDS
- Expansion of resources to avert hospital admissions for IFS

Discussion ensued on clinical staff credentials. Not all are licensed or credentialed. Clinical staff have varying skills. DDS does not qualify private provider clinicians.

For additional information or questions about DDS Psychology services, contact Dr. Recinos at #203-294-5134 or [dawne.recinos@ct.gov](mailto:dawne.recinos@ct.gov).

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

- The DDS Step-down Unit is open and at full capacity. Referrals flow thru case management to the respective regional director for review and submission to the unit for consideration
- Family Support Teams are fully staffed for weekend and evening coverage
- Behavioral Health Clinical Manager hired for each region. This is a new job class for DDS
- RFP for 3 emergency transitional housing sites awaiting approval
- Governor's proposed budget looks promising for DDS
- DDS is whittling down the WaitList through various funding initiatives, i.e. elderly caregivers, CCH
- Legislative updates
- Provider discharge process
- Case manager vacancies

**New Business:** None presented.

**Council Open Discussion:** Discussion ensued on Individual and Family Support grants. All DDS-eligible individuals who reside in the family home or independently are eligible for grants. Grants are requested through the assigned case manager or through the regional Helpline if no case manager is assigned. Grants can be requested for one-time expenses related to an individual's disability that cannot be covered by other resources. Grant funding is subject to availability and not an entitlement. The Regional Director's office will forward a copy of the *DDS IFS Resources and Helpline Information* brochure to Council members following the meeting. The SR Helpline can be reached by calling 1-877-437-4567.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Jolie Crescimano-Goss*

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region

**Next Meeting:** June 19, 2019 / 6:00 PM / Location TBD