

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 19, 2020  
6:00 PM  
(via Teleconference)**

**Members Participating:** Secretary Robin Brewer, Lynn Arezzini, David Cassano, Carol Cooney, Heidi Earle, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

**Public Participation:** Jacob Earle

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

**Chairperson's Report:**

- **Call to Order** – Secretary Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
- **Citizen Comments** – Kudos to providers who have been able to ramp up day and vocational services. Staff are doing an amazing job and individuals are excited to be back.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the July 2020, meeting.*
- **Field Activity Report** – Member Cooney reported having heard that SPED students would be attending school four days per week.

**Regional Director's Updates:** Director Dailey updated the Council on recent happenings at DDS. They include:

- The DDS Step-down Unit has some vacancies → SR has three referrals in.
- The DDS Emergency Transitional Housing Program → The ETHP operated by RMS on the Meriden campus has been very successful.
- Positions are being filled for the new Meriden Respite Center scheduled to open in September. The Meriden Respite Center will run 24/7 and focus on meeting the longer-term residential needs of individuals whose family caregivers have become unavailable due to a medical emergency, death, etc.
- Phased in reopening of employment and day services continues.
- DDS is researching participation rates for employment and day services and working with providers to decide what can be done to safely increase program attendance
- Day program reopening plans were given to DDS by providers
- DDS Ella Grasso Dental Clinic is up and running at STS. The Norwich Dental Clinic requires a new ventilation system to reopen due to the age of the building. Urgent care cases are being referred to UCONN at this time.
- 20 new case managers have been hired statewide and are currently undergoing training and are reaching out to individuals and families to introduce themselves.

- DDS has tried to minimize the reassignment of case managers resultant from past vacancies. It is a challenging process.

**Council Open Discussion Topics:** None.

**New Business:** Council membership currently stands at 11. The Council will revert to the minimum membership standard of 10 in October 2020 at the conclusion of Mr. Cassano's membership term.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Jolie Crescimano-Goss*

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region

**Next Meeting:** September 16, 2020 / 6:00 PM / Teleconference