

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020**

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

Public Present: Lynn Arezzini, Barbara Deindorfer, and Denise Tift

Scribe: Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS Executive Secretary

Chairperson's Report:

- **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM. All made introductions.

- **Citizen Comment** – In response to an inquiry regarding the purpose of the council, Director Dailey noted that the council, by statute, has the responsibility of consulting with and advising the director of the region on the needs of persons with intellectual disability in the region. The council ensures a steady flow of communication between families and DDS.

Question raised about what services might be available to the family of an 11-year-old boy who has multiple, intense medical needs as the result of an accident. Suggestions made to contact the DDS Eligibility Unit and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate as a start.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the September 2019 meeting.*

- **Field Activity Report** – Family hearing day is scheduled for 2/19/20 from 10AM-12:30PM, Rm. 2E, at the LOB. A legislative breakfast will be held prior to the start of the hearing.

Regional Director's Updates: Director Dailey provided updates on the following topics:

- Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit of DDS
- Provider wage increase
- On-going challenges for providers
- Legislative advocacy by providers and families
- 2020 Legislative Session (2/6/2020 – 5/6/2020)
- DDS Staffing
- Nursing delegation
- DDS Enhanced Family Support Teams
- DDS Emergency Transitional Housing Program
- DDS Step-Down Unit
- Clinical Response Teams (contracts awarded to Oak Hill and ICES)
- DDS Behavioral Services Program (BSP)
- Plans for the reopening of the Meriden Respite Center (24/7 operation with nursing, longer term respite for people with complex medical needs)
- DDS Day Service Option

- CCH providers rate increase
- National Core Indicator Survey vs. DDS Quality Service Review
- Blood glucose monitoring
- DDS Budget

New Business: Discussion ensued on the council's focus for the coming year. The Council will continue to support advocacy initiatives at the legislative level. The Council is also interested in having presentations on topics of interest at future meetings.

Per the Council's request, a representative of the DDS Behavioral Services Program (BSP) will be invited to the Council's next meeting for a presentation on the BSP program.

Membership and Recruitment: The Council has three vacancies (two parent seats and one individual seat).

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Lynn Arezzini, Ms. Barbara Deindorfer, and member Cooney on behalf of her daughter Ms. Jennifer Cooney, expressed interest in becoming members of this Council. At Chair Bridges-Parent's request, the Regional Director's Office will recommend to Commissioner Scheff the appointment of Ms. Arezzini, Ms. Deindorfer, and Ms. Jennifer Cooney to the DDS South RAC for the customary three-year membership term.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region

Next Meeting: March 18, 2020 / 6:00 PM / Henry Carter Hull Library, Clinton, CT