



Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services  
South Region



Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

Thomas A. Dailey  
South Region Director

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
MS Teams Video/Audio Conferencing  
Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2022  
6:00 PM**

**Members Participating:** Leslie Bridges-Parent (Chair), Carol Cooney (Secretary), Dawn DeMatteo, Kathryn Haaland, Thomas Dailey (Regional Director)

***Quorum threshold was not met at this meeting.***

**Public Participation:** Curt & Betsie Danforth

**DDS Staff Guest:** Shannon Jacovino, new ombudsperson for DDS.

**Scribe:** Exec. Sec. Gunnar Abrahamsson was absent, Thomas Dailey, R.D. recorded meeting notes.

**Chairperson's Report:**

- **Call to Order** - Chair Bridges-Parent called the meeting to order shortly after 6:00 PM.
- **Introductions** - All made introductions.
  - Welcome to Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson.
  - Ms. Jacovino provided an overview of her role at DDS.
- **Review of Meeting Minutes** – N/A, last meeting was “joint statewide RAC meeting”.

**Regional Director Updates**

- Temporary closure of respite centers.
  - Centers have been closed due to worsening pandemic.
  - Staffing issues are mostly to blame.
  - Respite staff have been redeployed to public settings.

Wallingford Office

Phone: 203-294-5049 ♦ Toll Free: 888-263-4445 ♦ TDD: 203-294-4475 ♦ Fax: 203-294-0220

35 Thorpe Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Floor ♦ Wallingford, Connecticut 06492

<https://portal.ct.gov/dds> ♦ e-mail: [ddsct.south@ct.gov](mailto:ddsct.south@ct.gov)

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- Future of DDS offices
  - Updates on New Haven office.
  - Possible to move to smaller office space.
  - Stressed that costs associated with breaking down office is expensive.
- Draft five-year plan
  - Discussion on public forums.
  - Stressed importance of individual and family feedback.
- Results of diabetes research
  - Treatment is very complex.
  - DDS SR will be providing optional training on this for case managers.
  - Training will help build better understanding of diabetes.
- Anticipated retirements 4/1 and 6/1
  - DDS working diligently to fill positions.
- Current stats on statewide group home numbers
  - Provided an overview of the numbers.
- Current stats on abuse/neglect allegations and substantiations from 2017-present
  - Concerns about drop in reported cases
  - Possible some are not being reported
  - Pandemic is having a negative impact in this regard.
- Updates on SDU and emergency transitional housing programs

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned around 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Thomas A. Dailey*  
*Regional Director*  
*DDS South Region*