

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees  
Met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School,  
Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, March 25, 2019.**

Present: Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair  
Diana Mennone  
Mark Cooper  
Eugene Harvey  
Excused: Eileen Lemay, Chair  
Guest: Sandra O'Neil

Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Report on DDS Council Meetings

*Presented by Diana Mennone to the STS Board of Trustees on March 25, 2019*

Diana Mennone reported on the October, November, December 2018, and January, February 2019 meetings which were all held at DDS Central Office in Hartford. Speakers and topics included but were not limited to:

Pam Fields, Executive Director, MidState Arc, spoke on various assistive technology options which allow individuals to achieve greater independence.

Andrea Barton-Reeves, Executive Director, HARC, conducted an open discussion on opportunities to protect individuals that DDS serves.

Stephen Morris, Executive Director of FAVARH gave a presentation on the I-Dash Program - Smart apartment management for individuals with I/DD and the use of assistive technology in those settings.

Katie Hanley, Senior Director, Oak Hill Center, presented: Knowledge is Power: How Relationship and Sexuality Education can keep students with I/DD safe.

In Commissioner Jordan Scheff's Reports, it was mentioned that DDS was recognized for having reduced its overtime by 11% in the first quarter of the year as compared to the same quarter last year. The Commissioner has a goal to meet with families throughout the state. He scheduled two meetings per Region. Another set of meetings is scheduled for the spring.

Transition from Governor Malloy's administration to Governor (then Elect) Lamont's administration was in progress. DDS Commissioner Scheff has been re-appointed.

The Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 20/21 was very good for DDS. It preserved funding for several of the department's initiatives.

Roll-out of the minimum wage increase to private providers and their staff began January 1, 2019. There has been positive feedback.

**Legislative Update**

The Council was introduced to the Department's new Director of Legislative Affairs, Krista Ostaszewski. DDS has been testifying on various bills in the Public Health Committee. One is S.B. 393 AN ACT CONCERNING THE

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' LEVEL OF NEED ASSESSMENT. It would require DDS to update its Level of Need (LON) Assessment.

The DDS Council sponsored a Legislative Breakfast at the Legislative Office Building on March 14, 2019. Awards were presented to legislators, businesses and self-advocates who have been champions for persons with I/DD. A bookmark with the Council's 7 Principles was handed out at the breakfast.

To view the Council on Developmental Services Approved Minutes from 2019 and earlier meetings, go to the **DDS website** at [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) - click on **BOARDS and COUNCILS**, click on **COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**, scroll down and click on: **2019 MEETING SCHEDULE** (Agenda & Minutes). Find dates of **MEETINGS**, Click on appropriate Agenda column and/or Minutes column for that meeting. To view 2018 approved minutes & earlier, scroll down below 2019, click on the year you are requesting. Find dates of **MEETINGS**; see **AGENDA** columns and **MINUTES** columns.

To ask and receive DDS legislative updates, email the DDS Legislative and Regulations Specialist: [Rod.OConnor@ct.gov](mailto:Rod.OConnor@ct.gov). More information is available on the DDS website: [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) (Legislative Affairs).

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Current resident population is 181 – 7 deaths have occurred since the last meeting.
- On February 8, 2019 we notified the Department of Public Health of our decision to end ambulance service at STS. Sixty days' notice was given though we will still provide fire service and first responder EMT service for our Residents.
- OPM has still not approved the proposed M.O.A. with the Town of Southbury for the gradual transfer of fire response to the Town.
- Dr. Gregory DeCandia declined the position of part-time (32 hours) physician at STS. Dr. James Ralabate has been hired to fill this position. Dr. Ralabate had a private practice in Stratford until his recent retirement. Dr. Ralabate provided medical services to the Residents of Ella Grasso Regional Center for many years until its closure.
- It is hoped to have Cottage 4 and the Country Café reopen as day program locations by the end of the month.
- We are in the process of hiring an engineer for the powerhouse and a maintainer for our warehouse. We will be filling fifteen part-time and ten full-time Direct Care staff next week. In addition, a new Dental Assistant was hired on January 4, 2019.
- The budget proposed by Governor Lamont appears to be a favorable one. Our Commissioner, Jordan Scheff, who has been reappointed by the Governor and Legislature, testified at the Capitol in support of the budget last week.
- The new floors in the STS Foundation Office in Cottage 10 have been completed and all the furniture has been moved back as of February 27, 2019.
- Representative O'Neil presented a bill for a hydroponics farm at STS, but was defeated.
- A bill is being considered to transfer Cottage 10 to the Southbury Historical Society.
- The former residences of the Human Rights Office and Thrift Shop One are on the State Surplus List for sale.
- The Town of Southbury will take ownership of the Personnel Village property in the next few months. The Pierce Hollow Village, Inc. group will then be able to continue to pursue funds for elderly affordable housing; but if unable to secure adequate funding, the property will be returned to the State.

- A 4<sup>th</sup> STS Reunion Party is planned for April 10, 2019 at the Waterbury Elks Lodge. Residents who have moved from STS along with those Residents who still reside at STS are all invited to get reacquainted with fun, food and entertainment.
- STS will again host the Gate House Concert Series this summer beginning in June.

Discussion followed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board requests a tour of the new Day Program sites when they meet in June. Director Harvey will make arrangements.

A discussion was held on recommendations for STS Board of Trustees vacancies. The recommendation for Ms. Sandra O'Neil is being processed, which still leaves the Board with two vacancies.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, June 24, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Mark Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.; Diana Mennone seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Webb, Recording Secretary

Mark A.R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees  
April 2, 2019