

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School,
Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, September 23, 2019.**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair
Diana Mennone
Mark Cooper
Eugene Harvey

Guest: Sandra O'Neill

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Report on DDS Council Meetings

Presented by Diana Mennone to the STS Board of Trustees on September 23, 2019

Council on Developmental Services Meetings Report
Meeting held on June 20, 2019 at DDS Central Office
Topics of Discussion

There were three presentations:

Disability and Aging - Beth Aura Miller, DDS Director of Self-Determination, gave an overview of the department's services for individuals who are aging. The March Management Information Report (MIR) showed that 22% of individuals DDS serves were 55 to 75 years of age. Ms. Miller gave examples of options and solutions for older adults living in the community. She also mentioned that with persons with intellectual disability living much longer there are now issues of how and when to retire from jobs and what retirement looks like for these individuals. DDS is looking into various ways that individuals can age safely in place.

Nursing/Health Services Presentation on Aging Issues - Dr. Valencia Bagby-Young discussed both health issues that affect older persons with intellectual disability and what preparations should be made to keep older individuals independent but with the right amount of support and guidance. Dr. Bagby-Young stated that it was important for these individuals to continue to get routine preventive care. Dr. Bagby-Young highlighted the types of legal documents, such as Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders, end-of-life documents, healthcare proxies, and Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) that should be discussed in advance with each individual. Families and guardians should make sure that end-of-life decision making is addressed prior to the need for it.

Training and Workforce Development for an Aging Population - Dr. Lynn McMunn spoke on the issues of how those departments and agencies that provide services to older adults with disabilities need to provide training to their employees so that they are prepared to provide appropriate care to these adults. Specific to DDS, Dr. McMunn highlighted the changes that were implemented in Connecticut based on the passage of a Public Act (No.14-194), An Act Concerning the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force's Recommendations on Training. The act requires that "all residential facilities serving persons with Down syndrome fifty years of age or older have at least one staff member trained in Alzheimer's disease and dementia and its symptoms. Dr. McMunn suggested that all families compile life stories, both written and video, as a way to help persons with memory challenges to be able to have a baseline personal history.

Legislative Update - Rod O'Connor discussed the outcomes of certain pieces of legislation from the 2019 legislative session.

Commissioner's Report - Commissioner Jordan Scheff discussed DDS's Step Up / Step Down Unit. It had the first official discharge and three individuals are ready to leave the unit with three or four more individuals waiting for placements in the Unit. He hopes that Connecticut will become a "Technology First" state. This would mean that tech solutions would be used to round out, replace, or enhance an individual's supports. He has communicated with the Governor's office concerning the potential to improve services and increase independence by adopting a "Tech First" model. According to the NASDDDS, (National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services) CT was recognized as a leader in addressing aging issues, pay for direct care workers, health and safety issues and technology as well as informed planning and person centeredness. We still need to work on improving cultural competency.

The July 18th meeting was cancelled and no August meeting was scheduled.

See DDS website for detailed minutes.

Diana also shared a copy of the Annual Report of the Ombudsman.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Current population is 170. This is three fewer individuals since the June 24th meeting and all three were as a result of death.
- On June 28, 2019 the Nursing Department moved from Cottage 6 to Cottage 5. On Monday, September 16, 2019 Cottage 6, which has undergone renovations including a new floor, reopened as a day program for individuals living in Cottage 7A. There are two Day Program Instructors, two Direct Care Staff and 10 individuals in the program. Renovations in Cottage 12 will begin soon as a new Day Program site.
- Cottage 16 was closed on June 28, 2019 and all sixteen individuals affected have been successfully placed in vacancies throughout the campus. The process for relocating affected staff has been completed and all staff will move to their new cottages on September 27, 2019.
- We had a very successful camp season at Camp Harkness. Before next year we will be installing new air conditioning systems in the cottages used by our Residents and for the first time will have golf carts available to take our Residents to the beach and around the campground.
- Due to staffing problems in the Torrington Regional Center, the fifteen part-time direct care staff hired for STS on first shift has been temporarily moved to Torrington to assist. It is hoped that they will be back at STS in October.
- Dr. Ramano from Bridgeport Hospital, who sees most of our individuals for Dental G.A., has agreed to provide deep scaling for our individuals while under G.A. for \$500.00. This is not covered under Title 19 and Volunteer Services has agreed to cover the cost.
- On September 18th, Melanie Miller, Remedial Expert, five members of the ARC, David Shaw, Frank Laski and two members of WECAHR toured STS. In addition to the medical and dental clinics, the group toured Cottage 20, Cottage 7 and Cottage 42, as well as, the day programs in Cottages 2, 4 and 6.
- Some of the summer durational direct care workers who were scheduled to leave at the end of August will be offered an opportunity to work at STS for a few more months to assist with overtime reduction.

- Rose Petruzzi-Cocozza, Legislative Advocate for the Home and School Association of Southbury Training School, invited Governor Lamont to tour STS. It is not clear if the Governor will visit, but if he does it will be arranged through Central Office and the Commissioner will be in attendance. Ms. Petruzzi-Cocozza has also invited Senator Christopher Murphy to tour STS. Representative Wilson Phaenous toured our facility on July 11, 2019.

Topics of discussion followed the Director's Report, which included 1) Security at Farm 1; 2) Memorial Garden; and 3) Southbury Ambulance response to STS.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sandra O'Neill expressed continued interest in filling one of the vacancies on the STS Board of Trustees. She will submit her paperwork to be forwarded to the Governor's Office for his approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Francisco J. Suarez, D.M.D. will be the guest speaker at the next meeting. Dr. Suarez joined the Dental Department at Southbury Training School October 2018.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, November 25, 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 1:53 p.m.; Ann Dougherty seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Webb, Recording Secretary

Mark A.R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees
September 27, 2019