

The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees met in the Moser Library at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, February 23, 2009.

Present: Ann Dougherty, Chair
Eileen Lemay, Vice-Chair
Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Secretary
Mark Cooper
Louis Richards
Mark Taylor, M.D.
Ted Walen
Eugene Harvey, Director, STS

Guests: Sally Bondy

Ms. Dougherty called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:02 p.m.

MINUTES

The January 26, 2009 minutes had been approved by e-mail on January 29, 2009

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Mr. Walen presented the following highlights of the January 8, 2009 Council meeting:

Ed Mambruno, the Ombudsperson for DDS, and a nurse practitioner are undertaking an exhaustive study of DDS clients living in nursing homes, to determine whether the quality of care they are receiving is appropriate for their cognitive abilities. It appears that in some instances, proper care is not being provided. DDS will press for the provision of appropriate care. The Department will also attempt to provide transition into the community for DDS clients who are living in nursing homes, as soon as their medical problems can be handled.

Commissioner O'Meara described the monthly "Trades Meetings," which encourage discussions of financial and administrative problems between the Department and the private providers. These conferences have been successful in improving communication and cooperation. People interested in the function of DDS might find it worthwhile to listen in to these discussions. They can be accessed through the DDS web site (<http://www.ct.gov/dds>), click on "Video Library" and then on the date of the meeting you wish to audit.

Commissioner O'Meara then discussed the budget for 2010-2011, which starts July 1, 2009. DDS did pretty well, considering the difficult financial problems faced by the State, which will seek to maximize federal reimbursements.

Mr. Walen informed the Council about a letter FORConn has sent to the Governor, objecting to the provision in the Budget to end funding the subsidy for the Waiting List, since loss of the subsidy will ensure rapid growth of the list. The letter also protested the recommendation to eliminate all funding of dental care for adult DDS clients, except in emergencies. The Council will send letters to the Governor and the members of the Appropriations Committee supporting FORConn's position.

Ms. Dougherty thanked Mr. Walen for his presentation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported that the personnel adjustments required by closing down some of the cottages are going well. The restriction of "bumping" to one episode, limited to positions on the STS campus, has been accepted with little objection and considerable reduction of anxiety.

The residents of Cottage 27 have moved to Cottage 7. Three residents of Cottage 15 have moved to PV 21, and the remaining residents will move from Cottage 15U to Cottage 7 in the next few weeks. All of these moves have taken place after consultation with and approval by the appropriate family, guardians and advocates. There have been only a few problems. The required closings are occurring on schedule.

Messier Case: Further testimony will be taken from people at Central Office in regard to the policies about placement of STS residents in community facilities. Attorney York, in opposition to Attorney Shaw, has requested the Court to limit the scope of the documentation request.

Consent Decree: The attorney for the Department of Justice has shown some reluctance to expedite the resolution of the case, but Tom York has contacted his supervisor, who has indicated that she will work with him to get the resolution process back on track.

Budget: The Commissioner is "guardedly optimistic." The savings resulting from scheduled closing of cottages as already planned will probably provide most of the savings required from STS. The budget plan includes a union "giveback" of \$49,000,000 for this fiscal year, but the unions have not yet agreed to this adjustment. The possibility is under consideration of a voluntary retirement incentive program of all personnel over the age of 55 who have at least ten years of service. They would receive an additional three years' credit toward their retirement if they agreed.

Ms. Dougherty asked how much money could be saved if the STS sewage system could be linked with the Heritage Village system. Mr. Harvey answered that the existing STS system is outmoded and will need expensive repairs and upgrading if it is to be environmentally acceptable. The saving by linking to the Heritage Village system would reflect the saving by not needing to upgrade the STS system. He did not know how much money was involved.

Mr. Walen added that the Commissioner had testified before the legislature's Program Review and Investigations committee that he did not think the investigation of the economics of the operation of STS would be worth the effort and expense.

OLD BUSINESS and NEW BUSINESS

There was no Old or New Business

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be on **Monday, March 23, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Moser Library**. John Narowski, manager of the Physical Plant and Engineering, will be the guest speaker.

There being no further business, Mr. Cooper moved the meeting adjourn at 1:55 p.m. Dr. Taylor seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip K. Bondy, M.D.
Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees
February 26, 2009