

The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees "Special Meeting" met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, January 24, 2011.

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Louis Richards
Ted Walen
Marc J. Taylor, M.D.
Ann Dougherty
Mark Cooper
Eugene Harvey
Excused: Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Secretary
Guests: Tony Records, Remedial Expert

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:10 p.m.

MINUTES

All trustees via e-mail approved the November 15, 2010 minutes on November 18, 2010.

GUEST SPEAKER

Eileen Lemay introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Tony Records, Remedial Expert. Mr. Records was appointed by the court following the approval of the Messier Settlement Agreement on November 19, 2010. In 2008 the Court specifically found the plaintiffs had established that the defendants "failed adequately to provide for the evaluation of all class members for community placement and had failed to place in the community class members for whom such placement was found to be appropriate by the defendants' treatment professionals and who had consented to or requested such placement either through their guardians, or where appropriate, themselves." His responsibility is to ensure full implementation of the settlement agreement and to determine whether the concerns of family members, guardians, advocates and class members are addressed and met and to take appropriate action to ensure that the defendants meet those needs. By May 2011 a new curriculum for training the IDT staff members will be developed informing them how to make recommendations for the most integrated setting for each individual resident. The training sessions will take place between May and November 2011. The IDT staff members will implement, after training, the process for recommending the most integrated setting for each individual based on their professional judgment and then be able to provide information to residents, guardians and families about, and exposure to, community-based alternatives to assure that informed choices are made.

The board members have requested to review the training curriculum for staff in order to make comments/recommendations before it is finalized. Mr. Records said he would supply a copy to the members on or before the April board meeting and would be available to return as the "Guest Speaker" to discuss the curriculum at that time.

There were several concerns from the board members regarding integration in the community and if there would be any pressure on the staff to persuade any resident, guardian or advocate moving any resident. Mr. Records assured the board all family members and guardians will have the opportunity to visit any recommended placement before a decision is made. The settlement agreement expressly makes it clear that guardians and family members are the primary decision

makers with regard to community placement and are the ones who will decide whether to accept or reject a proposed community placement.

The question arose as to what would occur if a person moves from STS to the community and it does not work out. Mr. Records said that if a person is moved out of STS and it does not work out, he would have the responsibility to resolve the issue of them possibly returning to STS. This, however, would be evaluated on an individual basis and would only be considered if it were a matter of health or safety.

Mr. Records lives in Bethesda, Maryland and has been in the DDS field since 1974. He will be on grounds two to three days a week and always available and accessible for any questions or concerns. Following further discussion, the board thanked Mr. Records for his informative presentation.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Lou Richards reported the next meeting of the Council on Developmental Services will be held Friday, January 28th. The minutes for this meeting can be obtained by going to the DDS web site: <http://www.ct.gov/dds> clicking on the Boards & Councils link, and then on the Council for Development Services.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cottage Renovations:

The renovations in Cottage 18 are almost complete and should be open in late April. Renovations for Cottage 7A are continuing and should also be open in late April. Major bathroom renovations are planned in Cottage 42 with preparations for ICF certification.

Cook Attendants:

Twenty Cooks have volunteered to be classified as Cook Attendants, as Cook Attendants can also assist with floor duties in addition to cooking duties.

STS 911 Transfer to the Town of Southbury:

The Town of Southbury is continuing to resist the transfer of STS 911 calls. A meeting has been scheduled between the STS attorney and the Town attorney to resolve this issue on Friday, January 28, 2011.

DDS Commissioner:

Governor Malloy has asked Peter O'Meara to serve as Interim Commissioner of Developmental Services.

NEW BUSINESS

In Dr. Bondy's absence, Mr. Harvey reported on recent developments in the future of DDS:

Proposed House Bills:

#5142, An Act requiring public hearings on the locations of group homes.

#5078, an Act increasing the delivery of social services by qualified private community-based providers. This bill, if passed, would require that all state agencies that deliver social services through DDS, DSS, and DMHAS transfer not less than 20% of the administrative and personnel responsibility associated with delivering those services to private community-based providers with no reduction in the level of services provided.

#5029, An Act requiring affordable housing to comply with Americans With Disabilities Act, making not less than 10% of affordable housing units comply with the ADA.

In an article which appeared in the December 2010 issue of the Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin, Governor Malloy stated that he will create a Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities housed within the state's private nonprofit system. The Center would collaborate with UCONN, Yale, the Hospital for Special Care and other facilities on autism research. The Center will also house a state Policy Council to continuously monitor and report on advancements in research, diagnoses and treatment, and consist of parents, medical doctors, researchers, advocates and experts that will both guide the Center and make policy recommendations to the State.

Governor Malloy also made a statement during his campaign that Southbury Training School needs to be reconsidered. Due to the Messier Settlement Agreement, he states that our population will be cared for differently in the future, with many living in group homes. He is also concerned with the property should STS close, stating that he has experience overseeing reuse of property.

Dr. Marc Taylor – CT Farmland Bills Introduced:

Representative Arthur O'Neill has submitted three proposed bills of interest.

#5201 That the general statutes be amended to authorize the grant of agricultural conservation easements on state-owned lands that meet the criteria for the preservation of state-owned agricultural lands identified pursuant to special act 09-8, provided such easement is granted to a nonprofit organization, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended from time to time, and such organization's mission includes the preservation of agricultural lands for use as agricultural lands.

#5203 That the general statutes be amended to authorize the grant of an agricultural conservation easement on lands that comprise the Southbury Training School, provided such easement is in favor of a nonprofit organization, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States, as amended from time to time, and such organization's mission includes the permanent protection of agricultural lands for use as agricultural lands.

#5204 That the general statutes be amended to implement the recommendations of the Farmland Preservation Board that were submitted pursuant to special act 09-8.

All are referred to the Committee on Environment. The Statement of Purpose of these bills is to permanently preserve valuable farmland and allow the state to retain ownership of the underlying property.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, February 28, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the STS Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Louis Richards moved the meeting adjourn at 2:36 p.m., Ann Dougherty seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Webb, Recording Secretary

Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees
January 31, 2011