

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, February 23, 2015.**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair  
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair  
Diana Mennone  
Louis Richards  
Mark Cooper  
Drew Morten (by telephone conference)  
Eugene Harvey, STS Director

Excused: Ed Edelson

Chair Eileen Lemay called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:02 p.m.

**COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Diana Mennone, the STS Board of Trustees representative to the Council on Developmental Services, reported the Council met on November 13, 2014 at DDS Central Office. Commissioner Macy was in Alexandria, Virginia, at the 2014 Director's Forum & Annual Conference. In his place, Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner, gave an update on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) investigations and the registry. He praised the work of the DDS attorneys who work on the registry. He also spoke about the hiring freeze and how it would potentially impact DDS services.

Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison, reviewed a hand-out on changes to the bylaws in each Article one through seven. The Council will vote on changes to the bylaws in December.

The Council on Developmental Services met on December 11, 2014 and January 8, 2015 at DDS Central Office. Diana was unable to attend either meeting.

Please refer to the DDS website: <http://www.ct.gov/dds>, click on the Boards & Councils link, and then on the Council for Developmental Services for any minutes submitted.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Current Population – 310 as of February 18, 2015.

New Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner – Morna A. Murray began her position as Commissioner of DDS on February 9, 2015. She is an attorney and public policy specialist. Commissioner Murray recently served as the President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA), a premier trade association for community-based health and human service providers. She has extensive experience advocating on behalf of community providers and those they serve, and as President of CCPA she is intimately familiar with the

needs of this community in our state. She will continue her advocacy with DDS in order to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities receive the support and tools they need.

Effective February 17, 2015 Jordan Scheff, Regional Director from DDS's North Region, agreed to take on the position of Acting Deputy Commissioner since Joseph Drexler stepped down from this position.

Commissioner Murray and Deputy Commissioner Scheff toured STS on February 19<sup>th</sup>. They visited Cottages 5, 18, 40 and 42. They were impressed with our facility and the staff. Eugene reported it was a very positive experience.

Budget – DDS lost \$1,000,000, but should end year with no major issues. Also in the budget is the closure of two cottages at STS, which will be announced in the near future.

Home and School Letter – A letter from the president of the Home & School Association of the Southbury Training School addressed to the Hon. Ellen Bree Burns, U.S.D.J. regarding the settlement agreement and a request for relief relating to Remedial Expert conduct. The court-appointed Remedial Expert recommends to “now consider a carefully planned process for the closure of Southbury Training School.” The letter outlines the provisions of the settlement agreement which states there is no provision regarding the closure or possible closing of STS, and does not contain any provision calling for the transfer of all STS residents to community settings, and that the ultimate decision about residence rests with the guardian.

Physical Plant – Don Hallabeck, Plant Facilities Engineer II, will be leaving STS as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. The department was praised for their snow removal efforts on campus as a result of multiple storms this month.

Cottages 40 and 41 – Bathroom renovations continue. The architectural drawings are complete and work will commence soon.

Cottage 20 – The windows required need to go out to bid. Target date for completion is May.

Medical Director – The Medical Director will be leaving in June. There are sufficient physicians and P.A.'s to cover this position.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Hospital Visit Protocol was distributed and reviewed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The BOT requests Commissioner Murray attend a future meeting. Eugene will help coordinate this visit.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, March 23, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Eileen Lemay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 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  
March 5, 2015