

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School,
Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, January 25, 2016.**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair
Diana Mennone
Louis Richards
Ed Edelson
Drew Morten
Mark Cooper
Eugene Harvey, STS Director

Guests: Senator Robert Kane
Representative Arthur O'Neill

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:04 p.m.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Diana Mennone, the STS Board of Trustees representative to the Council on Developmental Services, reported on the DDS Council Meeting of November 12, 2015.

Discussed : The Council would like to bring family and advocacy groups together in a unified voice offering options for common agenda items. The Council would like, as a group, to offer suggestions to the call for public recommendations concerning Southbury Training School.

DDS Council Meeting December 10, 2015 was cancelled.
A special meeting was called for December 14, 2015.

At that meeting, Kendres Lally, DDS Director of Investigations, explained the interagency system by which allegations of abuse and neglect of individuals with intellectual disability are investigated. The agencies involved include: Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Commissioner Murray discussed the impact to DDS of the December 8, 2015 deficit mitigation bill (S.B. 1601) that passed in the legislature and was signed by the Governor. Another set of funding holdbacks would be required of all agencies to accomplish the \$93 million savings required of the Governor in the deficit mitigation bill. The specific impact of these holdbacks on DDS cannot be determined until the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) releases the details to each state agency.

The Commissioner reviewed the department's plan to RFP (request for proposal) seven public community living arrangements (CLAs) to convert to private provider CLAs. DDS is required by December 2016 to develop a plan for the closure of the five Regional Centers and STS.

A discussion of "Recommendations for DDS Commissioner on STS" from the Council was on the agenda but not discussed due to the meeting going on too late.

To view the minutes from the Council meetings, go to the DDS website at www.ct.gov/dds - on left side, click on **BOARDS AND COUNCILS**, scroll down to:

2015 MEETING SCHEDULES / MINUTES. Find dates of **MEETINGS**, see **AGENDA** columns and **MINUTES** columns to the right.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Current Population – 263 which include ten community placements since the last meeting.

Cottage Changes

Cottage 17 is due to close soon. The first week in February Cottage 5 will move to Cottage 36 due to ambulatory issues with stairs in Cottage 5. PV-4 will then move to Cottage 5, facilitating the closure of all Personnel Village residences. It is projected that approximately thirteen residents will be placed in the community by the end of this year.

Cottage 40 and Cottage 41 bathroom renovations should be completed by early summer.

Renovations in Cottage 4 are due to begin once the bathroom renovations in Cottages 40 and 41 have been completed.

Budget

The budget continues to be watched closely. The closure of Cottage 17 will help with STS budget rescissions.

Governor's Visit

Governor Malloy commented on his visit to STS on November 2nd reporting that closing STS may not be a simple task. The DDS Commissioner has written a letter to Leslie Simoes, Executive Director of the ARC of CT, to clarify the Governor's comments.

STS Tour

Melissa Ziobron, Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, will tour STS on Wednesday, January 27th.

Senator Robert Kane, Representative Arthur O'Neill

Discussion followed between Senator Robert Kane, Representative Arthur O'Neill and the Board regarding the Board's recommendations for future use of STS. These recommendations can be found on the DDS website.

Representative O'Neill informed the Board that in his view there would be considerable expenses involved in closing STS and that any closure savings would likely not be realized for over five years.

The Board suggested hosting tours of STS with state legislators. Senator Robert Kane and Representative Arthur O'Neill agreed to organize and help prepare the Board for these tours in the April timeframe.

The Board thanked Senator Robert Kane and Representative Arthur O'Neill for taking the time to attend this meeting and for their informative presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, February 22, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Drew Morten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m.; Mark Cooper seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Webb, Recording Secretary

Mark A.R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees
February 5, 2016