

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees  
Met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School,  
Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, September 26, 2016.**

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

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 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 Meetings of May 19, 2016, June 16, 2016 and July 14, 2016.

May 19, 2016 Meeting

Discussion included a legislative update by Christine Pollio Cooney, Legislative Liaison, on a number of bills from the 2016 legislative session. See minutes on the website for list of bills.

Commissioner Morna Murray's Report:

Concerning the DDS layoffs and budget cuts, it was explained that DDS works with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Office of Labor Relations (OLR). There will be another round of layoffs in the future. Regional Center closures continue and DDS staff are working with families. The economic situation looks even more difficult. As in the proposed budget, DDS has been asked to achieve some targeted savings, as well as a 5.75% reduction. A team of DDS managers is working on a process to prioritize services and indicate how the targeted reductions will be achieved with the least possible impact on the provision of services. Identified so far are the agency's current core activities: Programs and Services: 24-hour Residential Supports, Family Support Services, Day Services, Behavioral Services Program, Autism Services, Case Management. In addition to this process, DDS will continue to work with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and OPM regarding the movement of the Community Residential Services and Cooperative Placements funding to DSS.

The Council discussed the STS recommendations (buildings) and exploring dental care for people with intellectual disabilities.

June 16, 2016 Meeting

Commissioner Morna Murray was absent.

Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner, updated the Council on the Ella Grasso & Meriden Regional Center closings. DDS is making this difficult decision due to the severe budget constraints the State and Department are facing. DDS will not be able to meet its projected target date of June 30<sup>th</sup> because not all plans have been finalized.

The Deputy Commissioner gave the Council an overview of the public group home (Community Living Arrangements or CLA) conversions as required by the state's budget to convert 20 homes. Several

initiatives within budgetary limits are being undertaken, including support for individuals to remain in their current residence with the same services being delivered by a private provider.

Background information was given on DDS' history of abuse and neglect with the focus of improving safety and reporting. Kendres Lally, Director of Investigations, the Deputy Commissioner and DDS' Information Technology (IT) Department will meet on how to improve the critical incident policy and procedure forms. Training staff, working with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and all over improving the current system are main objectives.

Shelagh McClure, Chair, and Molly Cole, Director, of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities, presented to the Council on their roles, five-year plan and mission.

#### July 14, 2016 Meeting

Commissioner Murray reported on the ongoing Regional Center closings.

An update was given on the incident reporting management system. DDS & DSS are proactively addressing the outcomes of the Office of Inspector General's (OIS) audit report. Kendres Lally, Director of Investigations, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the Information Technology (IT) Department have met on how to improve the critical incident procedure and its reporting forms. Training staff in appropriate reporting of incidents that may be the result of abuse or neglect, working with the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA), the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on improving the current system of reporting and investigation of incidents of abuse and neglect are DDS's main objectives. The Commissioner, Kendres Lally and Jordan Scheff met with Senator Chris Murphy to discuss the recommendation in the OIS report.

To view the minutes from the May, June and July 2016 meeting, go to the DDS website at [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) - click on **BOARDS AND COUNCILS**, click on **COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**, scroll down to: **2016 MEETING SCHEDULES / MINUTES**. Find dates of **MEETINGS**; see **AGENDA** columns and **MINUTES** columns to the right.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### Current Population – 255

#### Residential

Three STS residents moved September 15, 2016 to a CRI Group Home in Oxford, CT.

Cottage 15 closed on August 18, 2016. The cottage closure process has been implemented.

Cottages 40 and 41 bathroom renovations are continuing. A private contractor has been secured.

Renovations in Cottage 7 are ongoing. There is a need for the future use of this building as it has an elevator.

The need for an elevator in Cottage 40 has been reviewed. Volunteer Services has agreed to fund this project.

Doctor's On-Call Protocol

The STS Doctors are now on call from home from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the next morning, seven days a week. The On-Call Protocol does not include any on-campus activity during that time.

Budget

Thirty public group homes will be converted to private group homes with a focus time of January 1, 2017. This will result in approximately 450 DDS staff laid off in the regions. This will pose challenges for some facilities as bumping will begin.

All Day Programs will be converted to private services over the next few months. A legal issue has developed in that the Guardians do not want to share information with private providers and have challenged this in court. It is the Department's position that private providers are approved entities and subsequently guardian permission is not required.

Committee for Public Closure

One meeting was held this month. A decision is expected to be presented to the Governor by the end of the year.

Roaring 20's Car Show

The Car Show that is held in September on the STS big front lawn and also by Lake Stibbs has officially cancelled their show at this facility and will relocate to the Bethlehem Fair Grounds for 2017.

STS Fire Department

STS is in the process of writing up a Memorandum of Understanding for the Fire Department to remain on campus for another two years.

Office of Protection and Advocacy (OPA)

Eugene announced that OPA will be going private. Connecticut is only one of a very few states remaining to have a public office.

Bond Request

STS will be submitting a bond request for the next five years. Monies will be requested to help maintain the campus for the next five years.

**OLD BUSINESS**Nominations for STS Board of Trustees Member

Recommendations for vacant positions on the Board of Trustees were discussed. Suggestions made to approach Jeff Manville, Southbury 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, and recent DDS retirees to see if there is an interest in joining the BOT. The Committee will report at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, October 24, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Lou Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 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  
October 3, 2016