

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met via Conference Call on Monday, September 27, 2021**

Present: Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair
Diana Mennone
Eugene Harvey, STS Director
Mark Cooper, Secretary
Sandy O'Neil.

Eileen Lemay, Chair was excused from this meeting. Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

A report was given by Diana Mennone STS Board of Trustees representative on the Council on Developmental Services for the meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams on June 17, 2021.

Ed Manbruno, retired Ombudsman was present at the meeting. Kevin Zingler, Chairman of the Council, members of the Council and Jordan Scheff, DDS Commissioner all thanked Ed for his many years of service on behalf of families, the Department of Developmental Services and providers. An update of the legislative session and adoption of the budget was given. Commissioner Scheff talked about how busy it has been for DDS with the mitigation of union activity which was ultimately avoided, working on incentives for providers through Federal Medical Assistance Percentage money (FMAP) and legislative work on a bill to reenergize the provider community. He has also met with the new Chair of Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT), Deborah Dorfman, and plans to continue to meet with her. Updates were given on new training for medication certification, Camp Horizon's residential camp, day programs and Lower Fairfield County Regional Center staffing. An Executive Session to discuss the Ombudsperson's position followed the regular meeting.

Minutes from subsequent meetings have not been approved yet by the Council at this time.

To view complete Council on Developmental Services minutes, go to the State of CT DDS website. <https://www.ct.gov/dds> - click on BOARDS and COUNCILS, click on COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, scroll down & click on Upcoming and Past MEETING SCHEDULE (AGENDA & MINUTES). Scroll down to find dates of MEETINGS, see AGENDA columns and MINUTES columns to the right. Scroll down further to view previous years' MEETING SCHEDULE / AGENDAS / MINUTES.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Our current population is 140.
- The Director of Disability Rights of CT sent Southbury Training School a letter in May regarding a complaint they had received. The complaint stated that the individuals living at Southbury Training School were being neglected, weren't receiving clinical and residential services. Eugene Harvey reported the complaint to our investigative department. They stated that the complaint

was unclear. All of the Southbury Training School supervisors were asked to do checks on the areas of concern. The Department of Health has also returned and are currently doing their yearly reviews. The Disability of Rights of CT have reviewed files and have toured five of our homes. Reviews and tours have gone well.

- Working on registering our individuals to vote with the approval of their guardians.
- Cottages 33 and 34 closures have been completed. All individuals have moved, and staff have been given their new assignments.
- On September 5th one staff and two individuals tested positive for Covid. The individuals are asymptomatic and have returned to their homes.
- On September 5th we have reinstated staffing restrictions. Staff will only be working in their assigned cottages because of Covid concerns.
- Southbury Training School staff are now mandated to have at least one Covid vaccine by September 26th 2021.
- We are in the process of hiring new staff because of Covid concerns and staff retirements that will be occurring this month, April 2022 and June 2022. We will be hit hard by the upcoming retirements. Some staff may be asked to come back for 120 days at a reduced pay. We will have more information in January.
- The Thrift Shops, Greenhouse and Farm have reopened.

OLD BUSINESS

- Waiting to get approval from the Governor's Office officially placing Sandy O'Neil on the Board of Trustees.
- Janice Boccardi, Administrative Assistant has received a racial and composition report from Central Office. Eugene Harvey will review.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Trustees have requested a tour of the campus. Eugene Harvey asked that the Trustees wait until the third week of October to see how things are going because of Covid concerns.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 1:00pm via conference call.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees