

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met in Person on Monday, July 25, 2022**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair
Diana Mennone
Kathryn Hanewicz, STS Director
Sandy O'Neil

Mark Cooper, Secretary, and Lee Ellen Chontos attended via conference call.

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

Council on Developmental Services

A report was given by Diana Mennone, STS Board of Trustees representative on the Council on Developmental Services for meetings held virtually via Microsoft Teams on April 21, 2022 and May 19, 2022.

Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson sent reports to the Council and attended April and May's meetings. Her monthly reports to the DDS Council can be found on the DDS website. Shannon provides her reports prior to the Council meetings for review and answers specific questions and/or concerns during the Council meeting.

Commissioner Scheff's report included information on ensuring person-centeredness and satisfaction of supports in a variety of settings. There was a discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, money that went to private providers in late March for (example) retro-wage adjustments, retention incentives and referral incentives. Areas of investment include: temporary provider stabilization funds, workforce stability and technology. It was reported that former Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason is back in a Temporary Worker Retiree role to help ensure federal requirements are met as the ARPA funds are dispersed. The Commissioner also gave updates on staffing changes and remarked that several retirees have returned as Temporary Worker Retirees (TWRs). At the time of the Council meetings, Commissioner Scheff reported a mild uptick in COVID cases among those served by DDS. During this period of time an updated secure email system was put in place.

Members had been sent a document with answers to questions regarding Abuse and Neglect to Commissioner Scheff. This topic will be discussed with a more substantive conversation in June.

There was a discussion as to how DDS came to fund Continuous Residential Supports (CRSs) and Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) in the 1980's and 1990's.

The Council continues to seek topics / speakers for future meetings. Some ideas were shared by members.

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. Also available are videos of Council meetings although this writer has not been able to access them.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Our current population is 130.
- Disability Rights Committee are currently following up on a couple of our individuals.
- DRCT is currently doing the annual Social Security audit.
- We had a couple of cases of Covid-19 in June and early in July. We currently have no cases.
- Covid-19 second booster- update- our medical staff is working with each individual's guardian to determine best timing and preference for booster administration. Approximately 50 % of individuals are receiving second booster now and others will be receiving in early fall.
- The Deputy Commission, Elisa Velardo, came to Southbury Training School and toured the facility. The focus was on the opportunities for STS to participate in the on-going initiatives of the Department including Assistive technology, Employment, Self-Advocacy and the Upcoming Fourth Tuesday Forums. The infrastructure challenges were reviewed during the tour.
- Cottage 18 has relocated to Cottage 34 because of air conditioning failure and heat concerns.
- Cottage 30 has moved back to Cottage 36. Cottage 30 will be available for possible future emergencies.
- STS will be working with DAS and OPM to evaluate the infrastructure challenges and develop a plan for addressing these.
- Cottage 7A will be a priority for roof repair and the inside of the building rehabbed. Also, Roselle will be evaluated for possible roof repairs given the need to maintain Dental and medical clinics.
- In general, the state continues to face staffing challenges, however, STS is holding its own with Direct Support Staff hiring and the assistance of TWR, temporary worker retirees, that have returned to assist. We have approximately 40 new direct support staff since April, with more coming each pay period.
- An OT position has been approved for hire. Two staff from this department recently retired. The department head returned as a temporary worker retiree and will help train the incoming staff.
- Most of our individuals have returned to their day programs. Some of the community-based days programs were unable to reopen and those individuals were assigned to new day programs.
- We have had approximately 500 individuals from the community receive services at our Dental Clinic.
- Three individuals will be moving into the community later this year.
- The pool and camp are open for the season.
- The old Thrift Shop and the white house that was the Human Rights office are currently being prepared by OPM for sale.
- There was an extended conversation regarding falls, current protocols and procedures to prevent falls and supports that are in place.

OLD BUSINESS

- Eugene Harvey had previously asked Lee Ellen Chontos if she would consider joining the Board of Trustees. She has accepted and joined today's meeting. Ms. Chontos explained her credentials and her years of service working for DDS. A letter will be sent to Commissioner Scheff requesting his approval of Ms. Chontos nomination.
- A letter will be sent to the Governor requesting update on Ms. O'Neil's nomination.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

The next STS Board of Trustees meeting will be a hybrid meeting on October 24, 2022 at 1:00pm with a call-in option. The call-in number is 1-877-489-9261, you will then be prompted to enter the participant code. The participant code is 7308763#.

There being no further business, Eileen Lemay called to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm, Ann Dougherty seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees