

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees  
Met in Person on Monday, October 24, 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 were unable to attend.  
Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

**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 June 23, 2022, July 21, 2022 and September 15, 2022. No meeting was scheduled for August.

Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson sent reports to the Council and attended June and July's meetings. Her monthly reports to the DDS Council can be found on the DDS website. Topics included communication with and assistance to individuals and families; interaction with DDS, other state agencies and community organizations as well as general areas of concern, most concerning the staffing crisis. Shannon provided her reports prior to the Council meetings for review and answered specific questions and/or concerns during the Council meetings.

Commissioner Scheff's reports included discussion of changes in DDS staffing brought on by the wave of recent state employee retirements. He spoke about ongoing staffing issues and the ability of DDS and its qualified providers to hire qualified employees. The Commissioner has had conversations with other state human service agencies, which are facing similar issues with hiring. At the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Director's Forum there was a discussion on the staffing crisis and ways states were confronting it. Deputy Commissioner Velardo added that DDS was working with the State Employment Leadership Network around strategic planning.

Commissioner Scheff and Deputy Commissioner Velardo spoke about DDS's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiatives and the initiation of workgroups. Peter Mason, former DDS Deputy Commissioner and current DDS ARPA Initiative Coordinator gave a presentation "Movin On" on all the various initiatives that DDS is anticipating using ARPA funding. The presentation can be viewed on the DDS website and greater details are reported in the minutes of the DDS Council's July 21, 2022 meeting.

Other topics of discussion:

- \* DDS process of abuse and neglect and their outcomes, creation of a sub-committee to review DDS investigation procedures.
- \* update of DDS American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Initiatives and Workgroups.
- \* waiver renewal and amendments presentation by Health Services Administrator, Krista Ostaszewski.
- \* Proclamation honoring Beau Doherty, retired President of the Connecticut Special Olympics.

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 / VIDEOS). 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 129.
- Cottage 36 will be closing, and the individuals will be moving into other STS homes.
- Due to retirements, vacant positions have been submitted for hiring approval.
- All STS individuals have received their flu vaccinations.
- STS individuals will receive the Covid Bivalent Booster within the next few weeks.
- IV nurses have been certified.
- There will be a Trick or Trunk event on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Car trunks will be decorated in the parking lot of the Administration Building. Games will be offered, and cupcakes given to each cottage to take home.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Eugene Harvey had previously asked Lee Ellen Chontos if she would consider joining the Board of Trustees. She has accepted. A letter was sent to Commissioner Scheff requesting his approval of Ms. Chontos nomination. No response received at this time.
- A letter was sent to the Governor requesting update on Ms. O'Neil's nomination. No response received at this time.
- Sandy O'Neil will contact Kevin Bronson regarding acceptance of the two candidates to the board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business at this time.

**The next STS Board of Trustees meeting will be a conference call meeting on November 21, 2022 at 1:00pm for 2023 to elect board officers. 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 2:14pm, Ann Dougherty seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees