

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met in Person and on Teams, Monday, April 24, 2023.**

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

Mark Cooper, Secretary; Lynette E. Johnson, Director of Service Development and Support; State Representative Cindy Harrison attended via Teams.

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

A report was given by Diana Mennone, STS Board of Trustees representative for the DDS Council on Developmental Services covering Council meetings held virtually via Microsoft Teams on February 16 and March 16, 2023. There are no minutes available for the December 2022 and January 2023 meetings.

New staff members working from Central Office were introduced. Gunnar Abrahamsson is the new Executive Secretary to Commissioner Scheff and Jill Kennedy is the new Legislative and Regulations Specialist.

Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson sent reports to the Council and attended the February and March meetings. She reviewed specific cases that were flagged in her reports, gave an update on the progress, outcome, next steps for each case and the response of DDS. The Ombudsperson's reports can be found on the DDS website.

Commissioner Scheff gave an overview on the nomination and confirmation hearing for his reappointment, the DDS forums, the DDS initiatives, Fiscal Intermediaries (FI), eligibility issues, committee information on the DDS American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as well as Legislative Session and DDS Budget updates. Kevin Bronson, Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs additionally provided an overview on a number of bills being proposed along with language changes within particular bills.

Two Council members volunteered to draft testimony on behalf of the Council to present to the Appropriations Committee concerning the DDS budget.

Council member Rothstein, Chair of the Council's sub-committee on Abuse & Neglect reported that the committee had been meeting and recommendations would be coming soon.

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 and/or VIDEO RECORDINGS.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Our current population is 124.
- Lee Ellen Chontos who is in the process of becoming a new Board of Trustees member introduced herself to the committee.
- STS individuals are now attending day programs and leisure activities. Bingo, dance, karaoke, and arts and crafts are some of the activities that have started.
- Hiring for vacant positions is going well.
- DRCT was here last week to do reviews.
- Department of Health has completed surveys in three homes. All surveys were excellent.
- Reviewed Physical Plant concerns. Bond money has been received to replace roofs, HVAC systems and help with general maintenance.
- Chief Shelly Card is the new STS Fire Chief.
- The public health emergency will be officially over on May 11, 2023. The wearing of masks will continue to be encourage but will not be mandated unless an individual is not well.
- STS Individuals will be going to Camp Harkness this summer.
- This summer the STS pool will be open for our individuals.
- Kathy Hanewicz, STS Director, will contact Donna Munson, Day Program Director, to invite her to the next Board of Trustees meeting to talk about what programs and events are occurring at day programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Sandy O'Neil and Lee Ellen Chontos have been officially approved to join the Board of Trustees Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed cost of care information and the difference between an all-inclusive rates and rates that are not all inclusive and what additional costs are added to the not inclusive rates.

The next STS Board of Trustees meeting will be an in person and Teams meeting on July 24, 2023 at 1:00pm.

There being no further business, Mark Cooper called to adjourn the meeting at 2:21pm, Diana Mennone seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees