

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees
Met via Conference Call on Monday, January 23, 2023**

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 1:01pm.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

A report was given by Diana Mennone, STS Board of Trustees representative on the Council on Developmental Services for a Council meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams on October 20, 2022 and a joint meeting with the Regional Advisory and Planning Councils on November 16, 2022.

Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson sent reports to the Council and attended the October and November meetings. Ombudsperson's reports can be found on the DDS website. Topics included committee information on the DDS American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), DDS eligibility, guardianship, communication, and assistance to various groups.

Commissioner Scheff's reports also included comments on guardianship, noting that it is a much higher bar in Connecticut to achieve guardianship of an individual. Types of guardianship include plenary, limited and ad litem as well as others. The workforce crisis exists everywhere and while it may not be where the department hoped it to be, it has stopped getting worse. The Commissioner reviewed DDS Residential Waiting Lists. Two slides of information can be viewed on the minutes from the DDS Council November 16, 2022 meeting. An update regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was given noting funding is being channeled into different initiatives to incentivize innovation and better outcomes. The Commissioner said his colleagues and counterparts around the country are having similar interesting problems - i.e. having a once in a lifetime opportunity of funds with few staff to make the most of the opportunities. ARPA has huge potential to make great improvements to the system.

Reports from the North, South and West Regions Regional Advisory and Planning Councils were similar in themes. Concerns about filling vacancies due to staff shortages, COVID, retirements, housing and concerns regarding abuse and neglect procedures were shared.

Kevin Zingler, Chair of the DDS Council noted some of the work done by the Council over the past year. Testimony given to the legislature in support of the Governor's nomination of Shannon Jacovino to be DDS Ombudsperson; review and feedback to DDS's Five Year Plan; possible paths to employment to help alleviate staffing and nursing issues; testimony for the Governor's budget for DDS - see more details in Council minutes on DDS website. A report was also given by the Council's subcommittee on abuse and neglect procedures. They are aiming to identify what can be fixed in the short term perhaps by improved communication and what can be addressed in the long term. They met with a range of people - Kendres Lally, DDS Director of Investigations, Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson and Jim Welsh

from Disability Rights of CT. The committee wants to hear from the public about their experiences with abuse and neglect procedures.

At the November meeting an official proclamation from Governor Lamont was presented to Beau Doherty recognizing his career-long commitment to Special Olympics and to people with intellectual disabilities.

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 RECORDING.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Our current population is 126.
- Holidays went well. All individuals participated in activities.
- Due to retirements, vacant positions have been submitted for hiring approval.
- Approximately 85 DSW1, direct care positions have been filled. Currently waiting on approval to fill supervisory positions. Most Temporary Worker Retirees have returned for a second year.
- Vacant Occupational Therapy position will be filled. Waiting for posting.
- Full time Dietician has retired. Part time Dietician has transitioned to full time and will cover the case load.
- Individuals have gone back to their day programs and leisure activities.
- No COVID concerns at this time.
- Infrastructure concerns are being reviewed and addressed.
- Shelly Carter is the new Fire Chief and will be helping with infrastructure concerns.
- Environmental Protection will give input regarding underground tank removal.
- Emergency Services Manager is bringing in Homeland Security to do assessments of state homes.

OLD BUSINESS

- No response received regarding approval of Sandy O'Neil and Lee Ellen Chontos to the Board of Trustees Committee.
- 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 an in person and Teams meeting on April 24, 2023 at 1:00pm.

There being no further business, Ann Dougherty called to adjourn the meeting at 1:40pm, Diana Mennone seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees