

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

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair attended via conference call.  
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair  
Diana Mennone  
Mark Cooper, Secretary attended via conference call.  
Kathryn Hanewicz, STS Director  
Sandy O'Neil  
Lee Ellen Chontos

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15pm.

Special guest Donna Munson gave an update on current day program events and activities. STS has 25 instructors and 90 individuals that are involved a day program. There are a variety of day programs which include a mobile work crew, Thrift Shops, Greenhouse, and chicken coops. There is a day program at the Café that makes and sells dog bones to off grounds venders. The day program at the chicken coops collect and sell eggs on grounds and to business off grounds. Other day program opportunities are held in C-12, Activity Center. Individuals can go to the Activity Center and to the work out center, painting room, circus room, plant room, music room and bowling. The Board has requested a tour STS day programs prior to the next board meeting. The tour will be done on 10/23/2023 before the Board meeting.

Southbury Training School individuals and staff will be participating in the Southbury 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

**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 April 20, 2023 and May 18, 2023. The June 15th, 2023 meeting was cancelled due to no quorum being met.

Shannon Jacovino, DDS Ombudsperson was absent from the April meeting. Her report was discussed in an executive session at the end of the May meeting.

Commissioner Scheff explained to the Council that much of the month of March and early April was spent looking at legislative bills, language revisions, testimony, and funding for initiatives. He provided updates on the revised Mandatory Abuse and Neglect Training for DDS Staff and advised the Council that the training should be finalized and ready for release by June 1, 2023. DDS Staff members Trever Rogers and Darrell Spears were introduced by Commissioner Scheff. They gave a presentation on Customized Employment Services offered by DDS. Customized Employment (CE) is an alternative method of finding competitive integrated employment for individuals with significant disabilities. CE

focuses on the strengths, skills and abilities of the individuals and the unmet needs of employers. It is a highly structured, person-centered process, carried out over time.

DDS Director of Communications, Legislation, and Regulations Kevin Bronson provided an update of legislative bills, topics and matters of importance. He followed up with an overview of the agency's new initiative, STEP, or Supporting Transformation to Empower People. STEP is the agency's focus on enhancing our service delivery model in areas where DDS services can be augmented to further promote independence, integration, and freedom of choice. Using federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), that passed in 2021, DDS has portioned out some of this funding to promote and strengthen supports like assistive technology, supportive housing options, and individualized home support opportunities for those individuals who are interested.

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.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Our current population is 120.
- All Southbury Training School cottages will be going to Camp Harkness this summer. A golf cart has been rented to help individuals get around camp.
- Activity nights are occurring. Individuals have the opportunity to attend dances and bingo nights.
- Southbury Training School is looking into purchasing air conditioners for the Pavilion to make the events more comfortable.
- DAS is currently working on a facility use study. The study will be to look at what are we doing as a facility going forward.
- Oil tank removal continues and may be completed in 3 years.
- The Health Department has been at Southbury Training School completing their surveys. All of the cottages that have been surveyed have received excellent ratings.
- The pool is open for any individual interested in swimming. An outside camp has also been using the STS pool.
- Vacant positions continue to be filled.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**The next STS Board of Trustees meeting will be an in person and Teams meeting on October 23, 2023 at 1:00pm.**

There being no further business, Sandy O'Neil called to adjourn the meeting at 2:22pm, Mark Cooper seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees