

**September 10, 2009**

**5:00-7:00pm**

**250 Freight St.  
Waterbury, CT**

## **MINUTES**

### **Regional Director Announcements**

- Fritz distributed the following handouts:

1. Advisory Council Schedule
2. 2009 Advisory Council Member List

The Advisory Council discussed recruiting new members to their group. Alec Vlahos stated that he would be contacting an individual who may be interested and recommend that person to the Advisory Council.

Alec's email has changed and will be updated on the Advisory Council Member List.

- Budget Update: Fritz gave an extensive update on the budget. He explained how the Governor planned on closing the deficit. He went on to share how our current services would be affected by closing the budget gap. He also shared how the budget will affect our personnel services (i.e. staff salaries) and OE which is all other things (i.e. transportation, clinical services, energy costs, vehicles, leases) outside of salaries.

He gave a brief overview of the following services:

- Cooperative placement
- Age-outs
- Grads
- Employment Opportunities
- Day Services
- Bonding and capital equipment

He covered information regarding DDS dental and home health services.

Fritz went on to state that the budget is only as good as the day of this announcement. The budget is based on tax revenue projections. We may experience additional cuts should the tax revenue projections not be what they were expected to be.

### **Retirement Incentive Program (R.I.P.)**

Approximately 400 DDS staff took advantage of the R.I.P. This number is expected to affect what we do on a daily basis. We are still working to fill nursing and case management vacancies.

As part of the Governor's agreement with the unions, it was decided that there would be a conversion of 17 public group homes across the three regions. There will be 8 conversions in the West Region.

The state positions in group homes are mostly direct care. These staff will be reassigned to backfill existing vacancies throughout the department.

Each region held several meetings in the area regarding the conversion. The meetings were held to answer parent/guardian questions and concerns.

The conversion process has started and is expected to be completed before the end of this fiscal year.

### **Reorganization**

Fritz explained to the Advisory Council that there were not many managers who took advantage of the RIP. The one change to all regional Executive Management Teams was the elimination of the Quality Improvement Director. This role was added a few years ago. The department did not want to rid this position, but in light of the budget and RIP had to. Quality Improvement will be absorbed through the Quality Service Review and other people will be picking up the duties and responsibilities of this role.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on November 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at 250 Freight Street, Waterbury.