

**DDS-West Region
Advisory Council Minutes
January 23, 2014**

Members Present - Gil Kellersman, Mickey Herbst, Cindy Stramandinoli, Arlene Steinfeld, Karleen Craddock
DDS – Shannon O’Brien, Beth Aura Miller, Robin Wood

Call to Order – Chair Herbst called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Introductions – All made introductions.

Citizen Comments

- **Approval of Minutes** – Review ensued of the September 19, 2013 meeting minutes.
In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the September meeting as presented to the meeting.

New Business

- **Regional Director Announcements; Shannon O’Brien, Assistant Regional Director, Private Division (for Fritz Gorst)**
 - Ms. O’Brien updated the Council on the regional coverage during Fritz Gorst’s absence.
 - Ms. O’Brien shared that in the DDS Public Division the respite centers are planning to open for summer. Waiting position approval.
- Mr. Herbst informed members of two new individuals that wanted to join the Advisory Council: Corinne Tartaglia and Chuck Bergamo. The Council would like them to be appointed at the next meeting. Ms. O’Brien to follow-up with Commissioner Macy on these appointments.
- Ms. Wood suggested that in order to accommodate all Council members, that the regional Advisory Council consider Video Conferencing by using Regional Sites. The use of video conferencing may encourage more family involvement.
- A flier was distributed on the upcoming seminar “Adult Siblings Building Connections” scheduled for Monday, 2/10/14 at 5:30 p.m. in Hartford. Keynote speaker: Katie Arnold, Executive Director of Sibling Leadership Network.
- A flier on the upcoming seminar “A Place to Live That I Can Call HOME” is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in Cromwell was distributed to everyone present. This particular session focuses on how to plan for future planning for family members; how to purchase a house, how to get housing subsidy, how to get rent subsidy; it is a seminar just about housing.
- **Community of Practice Presentation; Robin Wood, Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy**

Ms. Wood gave an overview of what the “Communities of Practice” (CoP) is. She explained that there are groups of people who share a passion for something that they do, and who volunteer to interact regularly to learn how to do it better. The purpose of the Supporting Families Community of Practice is to help identify and design family support policies and procedures that will serve as a framework to support individuals with intellectual

disabilities and their families across the lifespan. It is anticipated that the Community of Practice activities will help move services to a “third generation” of supports. The “first generation” of supports were provided in institutions. The “second generation” of services have been provided by private agencies in small group settings in the community. We are now moving into the “third generation” of services. This next phase is being called “Individual Family Services and Individualized Supports”. We are moving into helping people live either in their own home, in their family home, or in some type of individualized supported setting. Small group settings will still be available to those who need them, but the hope is that person-centered individualized supports will become the norm over time.

“Communities of Practice” connects people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to interact. They stimulate learning by serving as a vehicle for authentic communication, mentoring, coaching, and self-reflection. CoP captures and diffuses existing knowledge to help people improve their practice by providing a forum to identify solutions to common problems and a process to collect and evaluate best practices. CoP helps people organize around purposeful actions that deliver tangible results. They generate new knowledge to help people transform their practice to accommodate changes in needs and technologies.

Connecticut is one of five states to receive a national grant to participate in a four year Supporting Families Community of Practice study. The Supporting Families Community of Practice is designed to include ideas, innovations and recommendations from the community. The purpose is to identify and implement policies and practices that will serve a national framework for states to use to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan.

CoP has been directed to focus on three areas:

- Discovery and Navigation; to help families get better information and to navigate the system better
- Connecting & Networking; to get families to network with other families
- Goods & Services; how do we provide supports to families
- Technology; we are using technology to make all these things happen smoothly

Ms. Wood distributed a handout on

- Community of Practice Committee Members
- Community of Practice Talking Points
- CHARTING the Life Course
- Ms. Wood also suggested the Council members read the book “Creating Blue Space” by Hannis Meissner, Foreword by John O’Brien.

○ **Self Determination Update – Beth Aura Miller, Self Determination Director**

Ms. Miller asked Council members if any of them were interested in joining the Self Determination and Self Direction Committee for “Community of Practice”. Mickey Herbst joined as a member. One of the topics for discussion is “what individuals have for in-home-supports? What are some creative ways to think about in home supports?”

○ **Update of Family Hearings Day – Mickey Herbst, Chairperson**

Due to inclement weather, the meeting had been cancelled; therefore, no update. Mickey recommended families contact the legislature and make them aware of the funding needs for supports and services that individuals with disabilities are in need of in Connecticut.

○ **Advisory Council Meeting Schedule:**

- March 20, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m. in Ella Grasso (Council might try by videoconference if they are interested, please contact Regional Directors Office to make arrangements)

- May 15, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Ella Grasso

Old Business

New Member Nomination Vote on Approval – Mickey Herbst, Chairperson

In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the council voted to approve Corinne Tartaglia as an Advisory Council Member.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6: 30 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Domenica Perrino
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