

West Region Advisory Council

Minutes

Via teleconference

4:00 p.m.

March 18, 2021

Participants:

Sue Bastien, Chuck Bergamo, Marina Derman, Lori Chiappenello, Mickey Herbst, Fritz Gorst, Gil Kellersman, Karen Simon, Allison Jacobson, Arlene Steinfeld

1. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETINGS MINUTES –

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2021.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE–

Mr. Bergamo shared that Thomas Ferroroti (parent of a consumer living at one of our regional centers) has expressed interest in joining the West Region RAC. Mr. Ferroroti has some issues that he would like to discuss concerning visitation at the Northwest Regional Center, Torrington. Fritz indicated that he is no longer overseeing the DDS Public Division which covers the Regional Centers. Cres Secchiaroli is the Regional Director for the Public Division and can address the issues that Mr. Ferroroti would like to discuss.

A question arose whether we have a separate Regional Advisory Council (RAC) for the Public Division. The answer was “no.” Fritz explained that while there is no RAC for the Public Division, the Lower Fairfield Center (LFC) has a very active parent group that is led by Cynthia Stramandinoli.

There was a brief discussion on what visitation is being allowed at the DDS Regional Centers.

4. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S UPDATE –

Fritz reported that the Governor and Commissioner of Public Health have approved 3 vaccination clinics in each region. DDS will be issued enough doses for all the consumers in our department. DDS is looking for a provider to administer the vaccines. It will be either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

The vaccine clinic will be rolled out in early April. A link will be sent out via case managers and provided for DDS families only. The clinic will not be open to the Public.

A discussion concerning consumers that are afraid of needles took place. Allowing an additional person to assist with the administration of the vaccine was suggested. It was also suggested that the vaccine be

administered to individuals that are homebound. Consumers have also been given the vaccine while remaining in their cars.

A question about day programs reopening was asked. Fritz shared that he is co-chairing a committee concerning day programs and how they will reopen. There has been no official decision on whether providers will be required to open. A survey will be sent out to providers about their reopening plans.

A suggestion was made to have staff that are hired via the self-determination model get identification proving they are health care providers. Fritz will inquire whether an ID can be provided for those individuals working with DDS consumers.

5. NEW BUSINESS

EVV – Electronic Visit Verification

The DDS did not start up the EVV in early January as expected. Therefore, the Department is paying a penalty for not having the system up and running on time. Members of the RAC reported some glitches using the program. Mickey Herbst shared his screen with members of the RAC to show how easy it is to use. Once individuals use the program more frequently, he shared that they will likely become more familiar with using the EVV system. Mr. Herbst showed how it's not that difficult to edit any errors that have been entered by staff and how to monitor different activity on the various screens.

There was a question concerning mileage. Fritz will inquire and get back to the Council.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public participated in the meeting; therefore, no public comment.

8. NEXT MEETING –

April 15, 2021 - 4pm via teleconference; invitations will be sent out via Outlook.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council adjourned the meeting at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eunice B. Rivera
Executive Secretary, DDS West Region