

*STATE OF CONNECTICUT OR*

EDWARD R. MAMBRUNO



for Developmental Services

*DDS Council Monthly Report*



**Ned Lamont**  
*Governor*

**Jordan Scheff**  
*Commissioner*

***July 2019***

**Personnel contacted**

Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Case Manager Supervisors, Case Managers, Quality Management Director, QI Supervisors, Abuse/Neglect Director and/or liaisons and Division heads if I needed specific additional info regarding the issues and concerns of individuals who contacted my office.

In addition, I spoke with other contacts at agencies eg. DCF, Public Health, DSS and the Client Rights and Grievance Specialist, Office of the Commissioner DMHAS.

**MEETINGS**

New England ADA Center, Director of ADA Training and Assistance

Council on Developmental Disabilities

DORS CDHI met regarding interpreters.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Client Rights and Grievance Specialist

Quarterly Private Provider Meeting

Meeting with members of Deaf community to go over issues

Met with Training department to go over ADA PowerPoint presentation

Met with University of Hartford, Doctoral PT students.

Meeting with members of Deaf and Hard of Hearing community

- Communication Meeting DDS CO
- ADA Video Presentation Completed
- ADA Notices Placed in DDS Public Areas
- ADA Legal Notices published in Hartford Courant
- a will and Distributed DVDs of ADA video presentation to private providers

- DDS ADA Training Video linked to YouTube
  - DDS at 100% compliance for ADA Training Video
- ❖ Attended Leadership Meeting in Waterbury to show ADA Training Video to Private Providers and Staff and answered any questions they may have regarding the content of the video.
  - ❖ Attended ADACC (ADA) Conference in Newington
  - ❖ Met with Department of Mental Health and Addiction Service sure that s, Client Rights and Grievance Specialist, Tit a le II ADA Coordinator to go over handicapped parking standards
  - ❖ Served on interview panel for selection of Director Position in region.
  - ❖ Attended March 16<sup>th</sup> Disability Summit at Mohegan Sun. Dropped into DDS Individual and Family support table as well as CCH informational booth.



- Met with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community at the Legislative Office Building. Answered inquiries into specific DDS questions.
  - Contacted U0biDuo, a company that provides a tablet that enables hearing-impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing to communicate interactively. Waiting on information and questions to be researched and answered by company.
- ◆
- ❖ Submitted Annual Report for last three years, 2015 – 2018. The office of the Ombudsman is statutorily mandated to complete an annual report and submit to committees of cognizance in the General Assembly, as well as Commissioner and DDS Council.



- Annual Report of the Ombudsman 2015-2018

## Concerns | Issues

- From time to time, I receive e-mails from the DOC discharge planner, when placement of a DDS individual from DOC is not going according to their (DOC) time-frame and/or plans.

He has e-mailed me hoping that I can help secure and expedite a placement for a currently released inmate that does not include a homeless shelter or hotel. He has stated that he has had numerous conversations with DDS with the understanding that by a specific date a private provider will be secured by DDS. This inmate is on "Special Parole" and this DOC discharge planner would like to know when DDS will have placement. Recently, he has heard of two temporary plans being discussed for this person, an apartment setting and the second a respite. However, these plans are temporary and he would like to know more about the specific timing of when this individual can move out of the homeless shelter into one of these temporary placements.

Spoke with Regional director and legal about specifics of case. This DOC individual is known for advocating placements for individuals even if he knows they are nonexistent and after reviewing and speaking with DDS, I have determined they have done everything within their ability to provide a proper placement for this individual.

Update:

DDS has found a placement for the individual with a provider. The delay, if you can call it that was finding the proper provider.

- I received an email from a young man who loves to fish in various lakes in Connecticut with his father. However when he and his father go fishing they would like to take his friend with them who uses a power chair. Many of these fishing holes are inaccessible to this individual because the terrain is too difficult for the power chair to traverse. He contacted me and asked me whether there is a way to make these areas accessible through regulations.

I told him that this would be a question for the State ADA Coordinator or even better his state representative or senator but, in the meantime I gave him the e-mail of DEEP where his question could possibly be answered.

In addition, I told him that the ADA already has laws prohibiting discrimination for individuals that need assistance and/or technological aids for their enjoyment of the park. However, there are certain accommodations that are not subject to the ADA or Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) standards such as power doors. Federal parks are subject to the ABA and not the ADA. State parks are subject to the ADA and could be subject to the other 2 laws, or ABA and ADA, depending on the type of Federal funding received.

The complete regulation is:

Federal parks are subject to the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, not the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. State parks are subject to the ADA and could be subject to the other two laws depending on the type of Federal funding received. Neither the ABA standards nor ADA standards require that power doors be provided. However, under the ADA regulations, one could argue (depending on the circumstances) the program access requirements could require that power doors be provided. Likewise, the same argument could be made under the Rehabilitation Act, section 504.

To understand better if the ADA regulations would require State parks to have power doors, we recommend you call the US Dept. of Justice (DOJ) for clarification. DOJ can be contacted at 800 - 514 - 0301 (voice) or 800 - 514 - 0383 (TTY). We know of no method to send emails directly to DOJ's Disabilities Rights Section for technical assistance.

Seeking clarification for the Rehabilitation Act is more complicated as each Federal agency enforces that law on themselves. So, for example, guidance related to US National Park Service properties would probably start with the US Dept. of the Interior, Office of Civil Rights.

State parks- Any person with a disability who may need a communication aid or service should contact us at 860-418-5910 or a

https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2690&q=322410&deepNav\_GID=1511

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

CT DAS - YouTube DAS Small Agency Resourc... Outlook Web App Core-CT - Home

**Maps and GIS Data**  
DEEP Home

Report an ENVIRONMENTAL Concern/Problem

Calendar of Events

Laws and Regulations

Maps and GIS Data

What's IN? What's OUT?  
Learn about the new, universal list for recycling.

No Child Left Inside

THE OFFICIAL CT STATE PARKS & FORESTS OUTDOORS GUIDE Pocket Ranger®

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE GPS MOBILE APP

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- [A to Z Directory](#)
- [Phone/Fax Numbers for DEEP Programs](#)
- [DEEP Employees Phone/E-mail Directory](#)
- [State Employees Phone Directory](#)
- [ADA Coordinator](#)

**General Contact Information**

**Mailing Address:** Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

**General Information:** 860-424-3000

**E-mail:** [deep.webmaster@ct.gov](mailto:deep.webmaster@ct.gov)  
address and telephone number would be most efficient

**FOIA Requests**

**ADA Coordinator**

Any person with a disability who may need a communication device should call 860-424-3000, extension 5910 or at [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov)

**Hours of Operation**

- Receiving numerous calls regarding an individual's rights as a condo owner regarding the ADA. Some of these inquiries are:
  - the right to have a comfort animal
  - own more than one dog when the lease specifically states no more than one, if I get a Dr. note
  - what is a service dog, how do I get one
  - if I own my own condo can I install power doors if I can't c's ause of price is the condo responsible
  - can I have my own handicapped parking place next to my condo if I own/if I don't own can

I have been working with the designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services on all inquiries directed to my office. Any questions regarding the ADA from an individual who receives services from DDS are answered from myself and if needed input from DAS.

## *Areas of Concern*

○ Case Management -	4
○ Case Management Requests -	2
○ Day Program –	4
○ Eligibility -	3
○ Funding/Budget -	4
○ Guardianship –	2
○ Health & Safety –	
○ HIPAA -	
○ Placement –	3
○ Birth to 3-	
○ School District services-	
○ Autism-	1
○ Mental Health Issues	4
○ DDS Information/Referral	10
○ NON-DDS Referrals	13
○ ADA, compliance, insurance, disability, housing,	29
○ DDS Nursing	2
○ Family Intermediary	200* not counted in total

ISSUES/CONCERN TOTAL – 79  
279\*