DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Hogan Regional Center

**Date:** Jan 20, 2017

## Attendance

DDS Commissioner Elin Howe, Christine Shane (Chair), Sue Loring, Jeanne Clapper, Sue Barber, Alexandra Nadworny, Diane Glennon, Rose Bevins- Facility Director (DDS), Karen McDonald- Interim Regional Director (DDS), Paul Murray-Clinical Director (DDS), Michelle Stomboly (DDS), Victor Hernandez (DDS) and members from the NE Region CAB

## Agenda Items

1. Chair called meeting to order 9: 35am
2. Nov 2016 SAC meeting minutes approved.
3. Chair initiated introductions of members and attendees. Chair reviewed the need for advocacy as the state FY18 budget process begins.
4. Karen McDonald- Interim Regional Director provided a review of the Northeast Region. The NE region is comprised of 65 towns and serves over 8,000 DDS individuals within five area offices with over 1,700 employees. Over 1,000 individuals are in the transition years of 18-21. Ms. McDonald also reviewed types of programs that exist in the NE region that services those with autism, the aging population, Family/Autism support centers and others. She also updated the group on the DDS initiatives with Shared Living, Self-Directed Supports, ABI and DDS/DMH collaborative efforts. Rose Bevins and Paul Murray reviewed the services at the Hogan Facility. There are over 137 residents at Hogan with a few more coming over from the closing of the Marquardt facility. Hogan offers a stabilization unit that serves individuals that present as very challenging in community settings. With the use of sensory intervention, medication and environmental structure they have a 94% success rate of transition individuals back to a community program. Hogan also offers the REACH clinic which makes available the clinical resources of the facility for assessment of DDS individuals living in communities within the NE region. They also have a heated therapeutic pool that serves over 5,000 community members annually. Individuals living at Hogan have the opportunity to participate in a campus job such as a greenhouse, kitchen duties, a recycling center and clerical work.
5. Commissioner Howe provided an update of current issues at DDS. Turning 22 continues to be a fiscal challenge with the increased class size and the complexity of the clinical needs of the individuals leaving school. With the support of the Governor’s and secretary’s office, there appears to be a fiscal solution for FY17 and hopefully FY18 when the budget is released in a week. The Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) presents many challenges in the implementation. Along with the financial payout for the participants (up to $15,000) many of the participants are in positions that provide care and services. The Autism account continues to present challenges as it was level funded for FY17, but individuals continue to be found eligible every month.
6. Victor Hernandez reported that the monthly calls will resume in March with the topics to be circulated at a later date.
7. Rose Bevins conducted a tour of the Hogan center for the members who could attend. Most units were visited and Ms. Bevins explained the clinical services in each and answered questions from the members.
8. Chair adjourned meeting at 12:35pm

## Action Items

1) NA