

# DISABLED PERSONS PROTECTION COMMISSION

## Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

### April 26, 2017

Commissioners Present: Honorable James Brett, Yndia Lorick-Wilmot Ph.D. and Maurice Medoff

Staff Present: Nancy A. Alterio, Executive Director and Jennifer Edwards-Hawkins, Program Coordinator

Minutes Recorded By: Jennifer Edwards-Hawkins

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Handouts – The following materials were distributed to the Commissioners:

- Commissioners' Agenda of April 26, 2017
- Commissioners' Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2017
- Budget Summary and Narrative Report March 2017
- DPPC FY2018 Written Testimony to Joint Committee on Ways and Means
- DPPC Budget Brief FY2018
- House Ways and Means FY2018 Budget Recommendation
- HRD 2017 Management Performance Evaluation Program Memo
- 2017 ACES Forms - Nancy Alterio, Emil DeRiggi, Julie Westwater and John Brown
- MOVA Letter to DPPC re. Notification of Award Negotiations
- DPPC ACL Third Bi-Annual Report, October 2016 – March 2017
- OCA Interagency Working Group on Residential Schools Report April 2017
- DPPC Statewide APS In-Service Training Agenda of April 4, 2017
- Protect, Report, Preserve Training Flyer for May 2, 2017 and May 8, 2017
- NAPSA Northeast I States MOU
- Hotline Activity Report – March 2017
- Oversight Activity Report – March 2017
- Legal Activity Report – March 2017
- DPPC Quarterly Report - January, February, March 2017

The Honorable Chairperson Brett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of March 9, 2017

**MOTION:** To accept minutes of March 9, 2017 as received motioned by Commissioner Medoff and seconded by Commissioner Lorick-Wilmot

**VOTE:** Unanimous to accept the minutes of March 9, 2017 as received

2. Administration and Finance

- Monthly Budget Summary and Narrative Report March 2017: The Monthly Budget Summary Report along with a narrative for March 2017 was submitted to the

Commissioners for their review and comments. DPPC is on budget and has expended 74% of its budget through the ninth month of the fiscal year.

- Ways and Means Hearing – March 20, 2017: DPPC Executive Director provided oral and written testimony on behalf of the agency’s budget on March 20, 2017 in Worcester to member of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Unlike most previous years, DPPC was not scheduled to present along side of EOHHS agencies such as DDS, MRC, DCF and MCDHH but instead was scheduled with Public Safety. A copy of the Executive Director’s written testimony and FY2018 Budget Brief were distributed to the Ways and Means members at the hearing and subsequently emailed to all the committee members. Copies were provided to the Commissioners for review.
- Reception with House and Senate Members – April 5, 2017: Representative Sean Garballey organized a reception at the State House for the DPPC to meet with new House and Senate members. The event was also opened to all members interested in attending. This was an opportunity for DPPC to meet face to face with new and seasoned members and for legislators to learn about the DPPC including its milestones, challenges and needs. Representative Garballey, Representative Khan and Executive Director Alterio briefly talked about the work and budget challenges of the DPPC, in addition to Attorney Levrault highlighting DPPC’s pending legislation.
- House Ways and Means Budget recommendation – April 10, 2017: HWMs released their budget recommendation on April 10<sup>th</sup> and recommended \$3,231,654 which is an additional \$100,000 over H1 for the DPPC. This recommendation not only allows DPPC to maintain, but also would enable DPPC to hire an additional position in FY18.
- Representative Garballey Seeks Budget Amendment: Given DPPC’s high caseloads and ever increasing hotline calls, Representative Garballey sponsored an amendment to the House Ways and Means budget recommendation to increase the DPPC’s line item by \$250,000. Unfortunately the amendment was tied to the wrong appropriation number as it was linked to DPPC’s ACL budget and as a result complicated matters with its passage. The amendment did not pass however DPPC is extremely grateful for Representative Garballey’s ongoing advocacy and support.

### 3. Personnel

- ACES – Stage A: Managers are reviewed on the federal fiscal year that runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. During the DPPC All Staff meeting in September 2016, DPPC developed its annual strategic plan and formulated agency and management objectives. HRD most recently released and distributed the revised ACES form with instructions for agencies to begin the planning stage for managers. The goals/objectives DPPC created back in September 2016 were inputted into HRD’s newly revised digital ACES form. ACES Planning Stage forms for Nancy Alterio, John Brown, Emil DeRiggi and Julie Westwater were presented to the Commissioners for review and signature. Executive Director highlighted the objectives that the managers are currently working on and that were copied into the ACES form including revising policies and procedures, pursuing passage of DPPC’s bill to amend its enabling statute, implementation of the ACL project, revising the

investigation report and intake database, implementation the changes of the public records law in addition to other objectives. Progress review stage will be due July 3 through July 21 with final review will be due October 2 through October 27, 2017.

**MOTION:** To approve ACES Planning Stage as presented motioned by Commissioner Medoff and seconded by Chairperson Brett

**VOTE:** Unanimous to approve ACES Planning Stage as presented

#### 4. MOVA

- Request for Grant Applications – Award Notification: DPPC received a letter from MOVA dated March 24<sup>th</sup> confirming the Victim and Witness Assistance Board has approved DPPC’ application to the *Services for Survivors who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Survivors with Disabilities* (SDHHD). As part of the contracting process, DPPC staff met with MOVA management on April 10, 2017 to discuss funding details. DPPC applied for \$2 million and was awarded \$1.3 million over two years. The MOVA grant will enable DPPC to create a Sexual Assault Response Unit comprised of Protective Service Navigators and Peer Support Persons which will connect victims of sexual assault with disabilities to the same resources available to other victims of sexual assault. The Protective Service Navigators will offer individualized supports to sexual assault victims with disabilities to ascertain what, if any trauma-related services, the victim may want or need and support that individual in obtaining services. Improving access to services for persons with disabilities also means improving access to long-term mental health treatment for all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with I/DD. DPPC also hopes to be able to use the funds to address the barriers often experienced by individuals in ascertaining an experienced therapist who can provide critical long-term mental health services to sexual assault victims with disabilities. Discussions are underway with MOVA to determine if funds can be used for DPPC to procure a referral service to provide intake, screening, assessment, placement, follow-up and case consultation to match sexual assault victims with disabilities to appropriate therapist. The vendor agency would have to modify its intake process, build its infrastructure, maintain the list of therapists, provide clinical match of person with I/DD with therapist. This would probably cost about \$200,000 over a two year period. There is available space in the building for the grant staff DPPC hires and the increased rental cost was factored into the grant application. DCAM has already visited the space as they handle negotiations with the landlord. Executive Director Alterio is also in discussions with MOVA about planning a formal announcement of the award. The Commissioners will be notified of any planned events.
- Conference: The MOVA Conference was held on April 19, 2017 at the Seaport Hotel and Conference Center in Boston. There were over 400 people in attendance. Patty Quatieri, self-advocate and MASS employee, received an award for her work in victim services. Two workshops were provided on the ACL project and A&A training with approximately 150 people in attendance between the two trainings.

#### 5. DPPC Advisory Council – June 22, 2017

DPPC Advisory Council will attend the Commissioners’ meeting of June 22<sup>nd</sup> to meet with the Commissioners and welcome DPPC’s new Chair, the Honorable James Brett.

6. Office of Child Advocate Residential Schools Report

DPPC is part of an Interagency Working Group on Residential Schools through the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA). The working group was looking to prevent harm to children by more effectively identifying programs at risk of experiencing operational challenges, and how to provide appropriate support and technical assistance to these programs to ensure their safe operation. A report was completed by the working group which provides a series of recommendations to improve the oversight of services to children in residential schools and address systemic challenges. The Commissioners were provided with a copy of the Executive Summary.

7. ACL Updates

- Learning Collaborative/Technical Assistance
  - Webinar on Consent and Persons with I/DD – April 27, 2017: The ACL project is scheduled to host its second statewide webinar, titled “Sexual Decision-making among Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”. Pat Carney, Trainer for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, is the primary speaker. The webinar will be recorded for people to view who were unable to participate in the live event. This webinar is intended for the professions included in the ACL project: DDS, RCC, A&A, DPPC and other agency staff. A registration link will be emailed to the Commissioners.
  - Four regional, in person multidisciplinary Learning Collaborative sessions are being scheduled for the month of May 2017. Each of the four regional discussion sessions will be hosted by an RCC in one of the four regions. Participation at each regional Learning Collaborative will be limited to approximately 20-25 people per region. Joanna Bridger, Clinical Services Director at Riverside Trauma Center, will moderate the lunchtime multidisciplinary discussions. The following four regional meetings have been scheduled:
    - May 10, 2017 from 11:30-1:30 at Western Region, YWCA
    - May 11, 2017 from 11:30-1:30 at Greater Boston Region, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
    - May 17, 2017 from 11:30-1:30 at Northeast region, Center for Hope and Healing
    - May 25, 2017 from 11:30-1:30 at Southeast Region, Independence House
- Third Semi-Annual Report and Guidelines for Rape Crisis Centers: The Third ACL Semi-Annual Report and RCC Guidelines will be submitted to ACL by the deadline of Friday, April 28, 2017. The Commissioners received a copy of the third ACL semi-annual report for review. The final ACL report is due at the end of October.

8. Building Partnerships Initiative Updates

- APS In-Service – April 4, 2017: The all-day, mandatory statewide APS in-service, took place on April 4, 2017 at UMass Medical School, Shrewsbury. During the morning session, the parent of a son with a disability who was physically abused

talked about the case and how it affected the family. There were approximately 100 staff from the four agencies in attendance.

- Protect, Report, Preserve (PRP) Trainings – May 2, 2017 and May 8, 2017: PRP is a half-day training, designed to educate staff to effectively recognize, report and respond to abuses committed against persons with disabilities. The trainings will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, Chelmsford, MA on May 2, 2017 and at Baystate Whitney Conference Center, Holyoke on May 8, 2017. Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni will open the training in Holyoke.
- Tier I Trainings – June 8, 2017: An all-day Tier I training, tailored for law enforcement including local and state police and assistant district attorneys along with APS staff, SANE and victim witness advocates, is being held in partnership with the Worcester District Attorney’s Office at Anna Maria College on June 8, 2017. The training will highlight the need to utilize a multidisciplinary investigation, the updates in the MOU, the roles of the various team members and communicating with persons with disabilities.

9. NAPSA

- Northeast I MOU: The Commissioners received a copy of the finalized Northeast I Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed by the respective administrators of the Adult Protective Service agencies in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

10. Quarterly and Monthly Reports : The Commissioners received copies of the following reports:

- Hotline Activity Report – **March 2017**: The Hotline Activity Report for the month of **March 2017** was distributed and reviewed. The Commission received **880** abuse reports during the month of **March 2017**. In addition to the abuse reports, the Hotline received **381** information and referral calls and **103** death reports, a combined total of **1,364** calls to the Hotline in **March 2017**.
- Oversight Activity Report – **March 2017**: The Oversight Activity Report for the month of **March 2017** was distributed. The report tracks cases per oversight officer, cases pending 19C reports, cases with 19C reports, deferred cases, 19C reports received, protective service plans received, initial reports received and notices to abusers. Within the month **209** cases were closed in comparison to **181** cases being assigned. At the close of the month, there were **713** active oversight cases and **399** overdue investigation reports.
- Legal Activity Report – **March 2017**: The legal activity report tracks guardianship petitions filed, court appearances, petitions received and completed, records requests/demands completed and referrals to other agencies/boards. The Legal Activity Report for **March 2017** was distributed. The Legal Unit received **5** petitions and completed **18** petitions and **57** records requests during the month. There are **86** Petitions pending review.

- **Quarterly Report January, February, March 2017:** The Commissioners were provided with and reviewed a copy of the DPPC's Quarterly Report for period covering January, February and March 2017.

11. New Business

- Executive Director Alterio met with DPH and Trial Court personnel on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to begin discussions on designing training for judges and court personnel on working with victims with disabilities. The Trial Court has developed online PowerPoint modules to address other training matters and it is the hope that one will be developed to address working with persons with disabilities.
- The Commissioners discussed recognizing Representative Sean Garballey for all his advocacy and support of DPPC. The Executive Director will invite Representative Garballey to the next Commissioners' meeting to be formally recognized for all his work and commitment on behalf of victims with disabilities.
- It was suggested adding a case scenario on financial abuse to the DPPC Budget brief. Although DPPC has no authority to investigate financial abuse, it still receives hundreds of reports of financial abuse and, due to the passing of the Real Lives Bill, the number of financial abuse reports is increasing. Although DPPC has no authority to investigate financial abuse, the SPDU, housed at DPPC, do investigate financial abuse reports. A financial abuse case will be added to DPPC's budget brief.
- A reminder, the next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lorick-Wilmot motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m., Commissioner Medoff seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m.