

DISABLED PERSONS PROTECTION COMMISSION

Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2017

Commissioners Present: Honorable James Brett, Yndia Lorick-Wilmot, Ph.D. and Kacy Cerasoli Maitland

Staff Present: Nancy A. Alterio, Executive Director, Emil DeRiggi, Deputy Executive Director, Julie Westwater, General Counsel and Jennifer Edwards-Hawkins, Program Coordinator

Minutes Recorded By: Jennifer Edwards-Hawkins

Handouts – The following materials were distributed to the Commissioners:

- Commissioners' Agenda of December 14, 2017
- Commissioners' Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2017
- Budget Summary and Narrative Report November 2017
- Letter to ANF – DPPC FY2019 Expansion Request
- BPI FY2017 Annual Review
- BPI FY2018 Annual Plan
- Article by David Kassel, *Committee to Schedule one or more Oversight Hearings on DDS System*, dated December 12, 2017
- NAPSA Northeast I Regional Meeting Agenda
- Hotline Activity Report – November 2017
- Oversight Activity Report – November 2017
- Legal Activity Report – November 2017

The Honorable Chairperson Brett called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 20, 2017

MOTION: To accept minutes of November 20, 2017 as received motioned by Commissioner Maitland and seconded by Commissioner Lorick-Wilmot

VOTE: Unanimous to accept the minutes of November 20, 2017 as received

2. Commissioners' 2018 Meeting Schedule

The Chairman scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The Chairman decided to hold off until February to schedule additional meetings.

3. SARU Open House

SARU Open House was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The SARU open house was well attended including attendance by Chairman Brett and the Commissioners prior to the start of the Commissioners' meeting. Currently SARU is working on test cases and hope to be fully operational in two of five regions on or about January 2, 2018.

4. Administration and Finance

- Monthly Budget Summary and Narrative Report - November 2017: The November Monthly Budget Summary Report along with a narrative was submitted to the Commissioners for their review. DPPC is on budget and has expended 42% of the budget through the first five months of the fiscal year. There are no fiscal concerns at this time.
- FY2019 – Requested Expansion: Last month, DPPC submitted the required Cap Narrative for FY2019 to ANF in preparation for Governor’s Recommendation to be released in January 2018. This exercise requires agency to report on funding required to maintain in FY2019. The Executive Director’s letter detailed what DPPC needed to maintain but also asked the Administration to consider expanding the DPPC’s appropriation to address the excessive caseloads, overdue investigations and a small amount of matching funds to support the new SARU unit within the narrative submitted to ANF. In response, ANF asked for additional information pertaining to the additional \$40,000 DPPC needs to support the office lease of the SARU. The ANF analyst will raise this issue in the budget process; hopefully this addition will be included in the Governor’s Recommendation.

5. Grants

- ACL: DPPC applied for an additional ACL grant but was not awarded the funding.
- MOVA: DPPC applied for an additional MOVA grant (VOCA funds) to fund SARU in three additional regions to enable SARU to go statewide.
- OVW: EOPSS reached out to DPPC to explore partnering on an OVW grant application to address the needs of crime victims with disabilities. EOPSS will submit the application and manage the grant. Currently the vision for the funding is to increase access to Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) across Massachusetts for adult victims with intellectual/developmental disabilities. This is a three year grant – the first year is devoted to the development of a needs assessment and planning with years two and three for implementation. As CACs conduct team forensic interviews and provide wrap-around services for crime victims, both DPPC and EOPSS felt this service would be beneficial for crime victims with disabilities. Bristol CAC is supportive in partnering on the grant application.

6. Legislative Updates

- DDS Oversight Hearing: Representative Kay Khan is scheduling a hearing in January before the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities in response to recent high-profile investigations and at the request of advocacy organizations. The DPPC and DDS have been asked to speak about the collaborative efforts in abusive investigations and the provisions of protective services.
- Legislation: Currently there appears that not many bills have passed out of the Committee for Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. DPPC’s bill is still in the Committee. Follow-up will continue. The Abuse Registry bill is in Ways and Means.

7. Building Partnerships Initiative Updates

The following reports were provided to the Commissioners. Executive Director Alterio provided an overview of the two reports highlighting the accomplishments of FY2017 and the vision for FY2018 in addition to emphasizing that training is the cornerstone of the Building Partnerships Initiative.

- Building Partnerships Initiative FY2017 Annual Review
- Building Partnerships Initiative FY2018 Annual Plan

8. Annual, Quarterly and Monthly Reports

The following reports were provided to and reviewed with the Commissioners:

- Hotline Activity Report – November 2017: The Hotline Activity Reports for the month of **November 2017** were distributed and reviewed. The Commission received **987** abuse reports during the month of **November**. In addition to the abuse reports, the Hotline received **545** information and referral calls and **88** death reports, a combined total of **1,620** calls to the Hotline in **November 2017**.
- Oversight Activity Report – November 2017: The Oversight Activity Report for the month of **November 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 of **November - 263** cases were closed in comparison to **202** cases being assigned. At the close of the month, there were **851** active oversight cases and **351** overdue investigation reports.
- Legal Activity Report – November 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 **November 2017** was distributed. The Legal Unit received **9** petitions and completed **12** petitions and **43** records requests during the month of **November**. To date, DPPC Legal Unit has completed **61** Petitions and processed **203** records requests/demands during fiscal year 2018. There are **47** Petitions pending review.

9. NAPSA

Northeast I Regional Representative: Executive Director has been serving as NAPSA's Northeast I Representative for many years – well beyond the two year term. The Executive Director felt it was time for someone else to step up and sought out a replacement. Gratefully, New Hampshire APS Director agreed to take on the role of Northeast I Representative. The Executive Director will run the Northeast I meeting in December and announce the replacement during the call with New Hampshire taking the lead effective January 2018. Executive Director Alterio will continue to join the Northeast I calls but will no longer be responsible for organizing and running the meetings.

10. Future Agenda Topics

Meet and Greet Advisory Council: Advisory Council members were scheduled to meet with the Commissioners at the previously scheduled meeting of November 16, 2017. As the meeting was rescheduled and the Advisory Council members were unable to make the December meeting, they will meet with the Commissioners in the Spring.

11. New Business:

No new business was discussed.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Lorick-Wilmot, Ph.D. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m., Commissioner Maitland seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m.