DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**Location:** DDS Merrimack Valley Area Office

**Date:** April 20, 2018

## Attendance

SAC Members: Christine Shane, Alexandria Nadworny, Jose Costa. Phone: Susan Loring, Susan Barber, Diane Glennon, Maren Jacobs, Lusa Lo. Guests: Patricia MacPhee, Louise Borke, Alice Flynn,Fran Hogan, John Anton, Allison Watt, DDS Staff: Victor Hernandez, Sharon Oxx, Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Michelle Vercellone.

## Agenda Items

1. Victor Hernandez provided an update of the Department FY19 HWM budget was released on April 11th. An update was also provided on the DDS initiatives regarding program integrity efforts and the National Criminal Background Check.
2. DDS Merrimack Valley Area Director Michelle Vercellone gave an overview of the area. The area has 15 towns serving over 2,200 individuals who come from very diverse populations. The supportive services offered by the area reflect the diverse needs with culturally specific family support centers and regional/area staff. The area has a wide range in economic status and housing disparities provide many daily challenges in providing the needed services. Transportation continues to be a major challenge, particularly in the rural areas.
3. Sharon Oxx, the DDS Director of Health Services gave an overview of her office. She oversees all issues related to health and disease management. Her office works collaboratively with other State Agencies and oversees the Medication Administration program for DDS. Her office helps to identify health issues for people with I/DD and creates health advisories and protocols for the DDS areas and regions. Recent initiatives include: Falls Prevention Training, Health and Wellness Initiative and Training, the Living Well Newsletter, development of a Risk Manual, Medicare Part D management for DDS MAP Curriculum development and implementation, Protocol development for common health related issues. Many of the health reklated information developed by her office can also be found on the DDS website.
4. Chairwoman Shane suggested that the meeting be adjourned until May 18th to focus on a sole agenda item to have a discussion regarding the current and future role of the SAC. Suggested topics include taking on a proactive role in advising the Department, contributing to the mission & goal of the Department and increasing the opportunities for DDS to hear from its stakeholders.
5. Next meeting: Friday May 18th at the DDS Middlesex West Area Office in Framingham (new location)
6. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.