DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**Location:** DDS Metro Region Office

**Date:** February 16, 2018

## Attendance

SAC Members: Christine Shane, Susan Loring, Susan Barber, Bob Putnam, Jeanne Clapper, Diane Glennon, Maital Levy, Jose Costa. Guest(s): Joan Goddard DDS Staff: DDS Commissioner Jane Ryder, Rich Santucci, Steven Tringale, Gail Gillespie and Victor Hernandez

## Agenda Items

1. Commissioner Jane Ryder provided an update of the Department. She introduced Steven Tringale the newly appointed Chief of Staff for DDS. The Governor’s FY19 budget was released on January 24th. The Department saw an increase in many areas for a $47M increase. The next step is the House Ways & Means budget which is due out in April.
2. DDS Metro Region Director Gail Gillespie, gave an overview of the region. The region serves over 8,200 individuals who come from very diverse populations. Their supportive services reflect the diverse needs with culturally specific family support centers and regional/area staff. Economic and housing disparities provide many daily challenges in providing services.
3. Rich Santucci, DDS Human Rights Director, gave a brief overview of the Office of Human Rights (OHR). The OHR protects and promotes the human rights of all individuals served by DDS. It provides resources to individuals, their families, provider agencies and to DDS. The OHR works with all interested parties in identifying and clarifying confusion over rules and regulations affecting the human rights of individuals by providing training and consultation. Aside from working on conflict resolution, the OHR also works with families & individuals on the differences and values on “meaningful choice” and “informed choice”.
4. Jose Costa, initiated a discussion for SAC Board members regarding the current role of the SAC. Members contributed to the discussion highlighting many points including:
* Taking on a proactive role in advising the Department
* Contributing to the mission & goal of the Department
* Increasing the opportunities for DDS to hear from its stakeholders
* Providing information & to advise on enhancing the lives of people served by DDS e.g. housing and staffing.
* Assisting with developing a plan for DDS on solutions to key issues
* Needs to have other avenues for issues to come to the SAC
* Members feel that they are talked “at” not contributing “to”

It was agreed that Chairwoman Shane would speak with Commissioner Ryder on possible next steps in addressing these concerns.

1. The January 2018 minutes were approved on motions by Jeanne Clapper and Bob Putnam.
2. Next meeting: Friday April 20th- Merrimack Valley Area Office (Lawrence)
3. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.