DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**Location:** DDS Greater Boston Area Office

**Date:** January 19, 2018

## Attendance

DDS Acting Commissioner Jane Ryder, Christine Shane, Lusa Lo, Susan Loring, Susan Barber , Maren Jacobs (phone), Alexandra Nadworney, Bob Putnam, Jean Palmateer, Joan Goddard, Phil Harrison (DDS), Margaret Van Gelder (DDS) and Victor Hernandez (DDS)

## Agenda Items

1. Acting Commissioner Jane Ryder provided an update of the Department. A national search for a new Commissioner is being conducted by Secretary Sudders and we will be apprised of any updates. The Governor’s FY19 budget is due on the 24th. The Commissioner reviewed the NPR series on sexual abuse among those with IDD and the Legislative oversight hearing conducted by the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. More specifically, the DDS Quality Management efforts on the health & safety of the individuals DDS supports.
2. Margaret Van Gelder (DDS) gave an update on the Blueprint for Success, a four year plan that was developed in 2013. The overall goal was to increase integrated employment outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities. It closed the front door to sheltered workshops and eventually closed sheltered workshops in 2016. With the strong collaborative partnership between DDS, ADDP, The Arc of MA, MASS, and other stakeholders DDS will continue to expand and support individual integrated employment opportunities and gradually phase out use of sub-minimum wage payments in group supported employment situations this year. There are continued efforts to increase integrated employment. There are diverse arrays of employment-related training opportunities for job developers/employment specialists; job coaches, and program managers. DDS and providers offer benefits trainings on Social Security and Work Incentives along with trainings on the development and implementation of quality and inclusive Community Based Day Supports. DDS also contracts with Regional Employment Collaborative (6) across the state where employer liaisons do business outreach and work collaboratively with job developers. I 2017they found over 250 jobs for DDS individuals. DDS has also partnered with the MA. Down Syndrome Congress and their "Your Next Star" Campaign. DDS also works with MRC to jointly plan and cost-share funding of services for mutually eligible individuals. DDs also participates in a five year Federal grant, Massachusetts Partnership for Transition to Employment (MPTE) to support system change efforts held by DDS for young adults leaving school going into a job setting.
3. Carolyn Kain and Dianne Lescinskas from the Autism Commission presented on the Commission. The Autism Commission is charged with making recommendation on policies impacting individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The Commission is required to investigate the range of services and supports necessary for such individuals to achieve their full potential across their lifespan, including but not limited to, investigating issues related to public education, higher education, job attainment and employment, including supported employment, provision of adult human services,

post-secondary education, independent living, community participation, housing, social and recreational opportunities, behavioral services based on best practices to ensure emotional well-being, mental health services and issues related to access for families of children with autism spectrum disorder and adults who are from linguistically and culturally diverse communities. There has been and there continues to be a great deal of collaboration between state agencies and a broad range of individualized services developed for individuals on the autism spectrum. The Autism Commission has convened Sub-Committees for; Adults, Data, Employment and Higher Education, Housing, Birth to Three Year Olds, 3-14 Year Olds, and 14-22 Year Olds to review the progress that has been made, to identify any unmet needs and trends in autism services, and to make recommendations regarding policies, legislative or regulatory action necessary to provide or improve services and supports.

1. The January minutes were approved on motions by Susan Barber and Alexandria Nadworney.
2. Next meeting:

Friday Feb 16th ; DDS Metro Region Office

1. Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.