DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Remote

**Date:** June 24, 2022

## Attendance

Christine Shane, Susan Barber, Maital Levy, Diane Glennon, Maron Jacobs, Jose Costa , Alexandria N. Dunn, Jeanne Clapper, Susan Loring, Patti Mcphee (NEMV) and Lucie Chanskey (MNSN). DDS: Commissioner Jane Ryder, Elizabeth Morse, Nick Dantzer, Tim Cahill, Chris Klaskin, Chris Thompson, Michelle Harris & Victor Hernandez

## Agenda Items

1. Victor Hernandez opened the meeting for the purpose of the election of new officers.
2. By unanimous vote the following officers were elected: Alexandria N. Dunn, Chair; Jose Costa, Vice-Chair; Diane Glennon, Secretary.
3. The March 2022 meeting minutes were approved
4. Commissioner Ryder discussed the ongoing workforce issue. We have never encountered before the number of vacant positions our programs have. A few of our providers are not able to accept new referrals to their residential homes and for some day programs. We are working to increase our capacity in these programs. Families are having a difficult time finding a staff person to work and support their sons/daughters in their own homes. One of our biggest challenges is our turning 22 class, especially those in a residential school. We are having a difficult time getting services for those. We have had to extend people who were in residential schools beyond the 22nd Birthday. A lot of families have had to keep their loved ones at home until residential and day programs can be secured. It has had a ripple effect across our system. With the ARPA funds from the Federal government, we have been able to raise our entry level salaries to our direct care workforce. We can offer our state staff close to $20 an hour. We are also promoting the work that we do with our staff. We are promoting this work as a career and highlight the opportunities people will have coming into this field. We are highlighting this as a career and an opportunity for advancement for both state staff and provider staff. We have expanded our urban youth program where high school youth get a summer job in one of our programs and introduce them to this career. We have had this program for 25 years and over 30% have stayed in the field because of the summer jobs.
5. Diane Glennon provided a review of her January 2022 discussion with the Citizens Advisory Boards (CAB). The conversations fell into the 3 areas of communication: Between the SAC and the CAB’s; Between Area and Regional CABs; CAB to CAB Across the State; There were other areas of interest/recommendations such as: recruiting new members, turning 22, joint CAB meetings and sharing of information. Link to presentation: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:7d5bd08c-9b33-46a8-a33c-bb1c7e5944ae>
6. Meeting was adjourned at 10am.