DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**Location:** DDS S. Coastal Area Office

**Date:** Nov 17, 2017

## Attendance

DDS Acting Commissioner Jane Ryder, Jeanne Clapper, Susan Barber , Maren Jacobs (phone), Jose Costa, Alexandra Nadworney, Bob Putnam, Diane Glennon, Colleen Mulligan (DDS), Steven Abreu (DDS), Louis Villanueva(DDS), Shannon Hubley (DDS) and Victor Hernandez (DDS)

## Agenda Items

1. Acting Commissioner Jane Ryder provided an update of the Department since Commissioner Howe retired in July. A national search is being conducted by Secretary Sudders and we will be apprised of any updates. FY18 budget has been approved, a hotline has been established within DDS for the anonymous reporting of waste, fraud & abuse, there was a brief review of the annual SAC meeting in October.
2. Colleen Mulligan (DDS S. Coastal Area Director) gave a presentation of the area office. Provider agencies in the area are experiencing challenges in meeting the staffing needs of their programs. A concern exists with meeting the challenging clinical needs of the complex individuals entering the DDS system. There is a supportive culture within the regional and area offices that helpful in working with families and individuals. The provider & state agencies within the area collaborate on many different initiatives and focus groups, such as residential, recreation , community and clinical needs.
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 September minutes were approved on motions by Susan Barber and Alexandria Nadworney.
2. Next meeting:

Friday Jan 19, 2018

Greater Boston Area Office

65 Sprague Street; Hyde Park, MA 02136

DDS Presentation: DDS Employment Initiatives

1. Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.