

**The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees  
Met via Conference Call on Tuesday, November 23, 2021**

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair  
Ann Dougherty, Vice Chair  
Diana Mennone  
Eugene Harvey, STS Director  
Mark Cooper, Secretary  
Sandy O'Neil.

Eileen Lemay Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

**COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

A report was given by Diana Mennone STS Board of Trustees representative on the Council on Developmental Services for the meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams for the months of July, August, September, and October 2021.

At all Council meetings Commissioner Jordan Scheff and DDS leadership gave reports updating the Council and facilitated discussion of the topics.

A virtual presentation by Commissioner Scheff titled "Seeds of Change" gives a view of the Commissioner's vision / 5 year plan for the future of DDS. The presentation runs 1:13:37 and can be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/WQi6P31Cp8g>

Other topics included, but were not limited to, a discussion on retirements and recruitment of new staff and a legislative update. Also, the continued work with Human Resources (HR) and Agency leadership concerning the COVID19 vaccine mandate is ongoing to bring all staff into compliance. A total was not available on rate of non-compliance re: vaccinated employees.

Kendres Lally, Director of Investigations gave a history and update on the DDS Abuse and Neglect Division & Registry.

Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff reported that the 5-year plan is due to the legislature by February 2022. DSS has concluded two series of various virtual forums to hear and learn from various stakeholders.

The Council went into Executive Session in July and August for purposes of discussing the DDS Ombudsperson position.

To view complete Council on Developmental Services minutes, go to the State of CT DDS website. <https://www.ct.gov/dds> - click on BOARDS and COUNCILS, click on COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, scroll down & click on Upcoming and Past MEETING SCHEDULE (AGENDA & MINUTES). Scroll down to find dates of MEETINGS, see AGENDA columns and MINUTES columns to the right. Scroll down further to view previous years' MEETING SCHEDULE / AGENDAS / MINUTES

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Our current population is 139.
- Five STS individuals are in the placement process. Three individuals will move when the renovations of their new home are complete. Two other individuals are looking at home vacancies and may move in January 2022.
- Disability Rights CT are continuing their investigation and continue to ask for information. It's unknown when the investigation will be complete.
- Health Department inspections have started. Four cottage inspections have been completed.
- All but one of our individuals have received their flu shots and Covid vaccine boosters. The guardian of one individual did not want their family member vaccinated.
- Almost all of the staff at STS have been vaccinated. Five exemptions have been approved and they will continue to be tested for Covid weekly.
- Staff continue to work only at their assigned work site. Staff do not cross cottages because of Covid safety precautions.
- STS has plenty of PPE's, individuals have had their vaccine boosters, our PUI and isolation units are ready in case any of our individuals get Covid.
- Five female individuals from Cottage 20 will be moving after the holidays into other cottages. Five males from Cottage 30 will be moving into Cottage 20.
- STS had a 15-car holiday parade for our individuals. The parade included a fire truck with Santa. Lunch, a cake and a craft project were given to each cottage. STS Strong t-shirts were given to all staff and individuals to wear during the parade.
- A catered Christmas dinner will be provided for all of the cottages. Guardians can visit if they are vaccinated.
- STS Dental Department is in great shape with a full-time dentist, dental assistant, and dental hygienist. IV sedation training has been booked for the department in the spring. This will give those individuals that need more extensive treatments to have them at STS. The Business Office has approved the training.
- Another dentist may be hired and shared with Lower Fairfield.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Waiting to get approval from the Governor's Office officially placing Sandy O'Neil on the Board of Trustees.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Eileen Lemay submitted the survey on gender and race. A letter was sent to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
- Reviewed the need to recruit more board members.
- Mark Cooper made a motion to keep the current board members. Diana Mennone second the motion and all members were in favor.
- Mark Cooper made a motion to accept the proposed 2021 schedule, seconded by Diana. All member in agreement, motion passed.
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Motion was made for the approval of the following 2021 meeting schedule.

January 24, 2022 at 1:00pm

April 25, 2022 at 1:00pm

July 25, 2022 at 1:00pm

October 24, 2022 at 1:00pm

**The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 1:00pm via conference call.**

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wodjenski, Recording Secretary

Mark A. R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees