

CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

Annual Retreat

Camp Harkness
301 Great Neck Rd
Waterford, CT 06385

September 10, 2009

Attendees: Voting Members – KZ-Karen Zrenda (Parent-Co-Chair) , JC-Jennifer Carroll (FSN-Parent), LK-Laura Knapp (Parent-Co-Chair), RT-Robyn Trowbridge (Parent), CH-Colleen Hayles (SDE), MO-Moira O’Neill (OCA), AG-Ann Gionet (DPH), KR-Kathy Reddington (DDS), AB-Alice Buttwell (FSN-Parent), MJ-Merva Jackson (Parent), SAG-Sylvia Gafford-Alexander (DSS), KB-Kathy Bradley (DCF) **Attendees** –TB-Tom Brooks (COC), MT-Mona Tremblay (FSN-Parent), CS-Chris Sloss (FSC Staff-Parent), LS-Lisa Sheppard (FSN-Parent), AP-April Dipollina (FSN-Parent), JL-Joy Liebeskind (Parent), HG-Hal Gibber (FAVOR), TC-Terry Cote (Advocate), AM-Aileen McKenna(B-3), MZ- Marty Zito (DDS), MM-Michael Mitchell (OHCA), SH-Sheila Harris (FSN-Parent), DP-Deb Pagano (SICC)

Welcome & Introductions (10:15)

KZ. welcomed the group and introductions were made. Commissioner O’Meara thanked the council members for their ongoing work and spoke briefly about the importance of the work we do in the current economic environment. Several members responded by thanking the Commissioner for his ongoing support of the Council’s efforts on behalf of families. KR also welcomed everyone to Camp Harkness and expanded on the Commissioner’s message of DDS’s ongoing support of the Family Support Council in the upcoming year.

Officer Election:

KZ reviewed the proposed slate for officers which had been made available to members at the last meeting (July, 2009) and posted with the agenda as well.

The slate: Karen Zrenda, Co-chair, Karen Hlavac, Co-chair, Robyn Trowbridge, Secretary. A motion to approve the slate was made by MO. KB seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none against. The new slate of officers was approved.

KZ announced her intention to step down as co-chair in three months and suggested we take nominations for the position of co-chair to serve with KH. KZ will continue as an appointed member; however, she feels strongly that it is time for someone new to step into this role. The following nominations were made from the floor:

Joan Law; Jen Carroll; Robyn Trowbridge

LK made a motion to accept this proposed slate of JL, JC, RT, with the ability to make additional nominations up until the vote takes place. MO seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor, none voted against. The nominated slate will be posted with next month’s agenda.

Vacant Appointments: CS reviewed member’s appointment expiration dates and any vacant appointments.

Annual Recognition Award:

RT reviewed the proposed protocols for this new award program discussed at previous meetings. A copy of the protocol was passed around to the group. The purpose of the award is to showcase

the innovative efforts of family support occurring within our state. Discussion ensued and suggestions were shared. The committee will continue their work on deciding who the recipients will be.

Facilitated Discussion:

TC facilitated discussion on:

- The past year's accomplishments
- Current Issues for families and state agencies
- Priorities and action steps for the upcoming year

CS will outline the information gathered and share with the Council at our next meeting.

Lunch Break (12:45 – 1:30)

Strategy for the coming year:

Members stressed the importance of keeping the Council's focus on families and kids with disabilities. The Council hopes to have a stronger presence in the discussions that are going on around the state by increased participation in the various task force groups and committees that deal with the issues that affect children with special needs and their families.

Council members brainstormed on ways to improve our ability to get more families involved in sharing their stories, gathering data and getting the information to the right people.

CS will outline the strategic ideas for the Council to use in guiding our work in the upcoming year.

Staff person to the FSC:

KZ provided an update on the grant from the DD Council that has funded the staff position to the FSC. The FSC was granted an extension to spend the funds as all the funds were not spent. While the FSC has until June of 2010 to spend the funds, there is only approximately \$5,000 left. Council members brainstormed on ways to obtain additional funding as it is realized that our work has been greatly enhanced by the efforts of CS. In fact, it would be difficult to carry out our work without ongoing support from at least a part time position.

A committee was formed to address this issue.

Committee: Kathy Reddington, Hal Gibber, Chris Sloss, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Karen Zrenda

Website update: www.ctfsc.org

CS has made great strides in improving and building our new website. Be sure to explore it. We need everyone's input to add information and resources. We can add attachments and links. Info is available in Spanish.

Suggestions were made and noted by CS, who will incorporate them into the website.

Meeting/Retreat was adjourned at 2:30.