

Draft

FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL **May 14, 2009**

Date: 5/14/2009

Place: Commission on Children

Time: 10:30-12:25

Facilitator: Karen Zrenda

Recorder: Chris Sloss (Respectfully submitted 5/21/09)

Attendees: *Voting members* –Karen Zrenda (Parent), Cindy Stramandinoli (Parent), Terry Cote (DDS), Karen Hlavac (Parent), Ann Gionet (DPH/ call in), Joan Law (Parent), Robyn Trowbridge (Parent), Merva Jackson (Parent), Elaine Zimmerman (COC) *Non-voting members* - Tom Brooks (COC), Lisa Sheppard (FSN/Parent call in) Mickey Kramer (OCA), Jen Carroll (FSN/Parent call in), Joy Liebeskind (CT Lifespan/Parent), Eveleen McDonald (OPA), Deborah Pagano (SICC/call in), Mona Tremblay (FSN), Vicki Veltri (OHA)) *Guests* – Sheldon Toubman (New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc.), Kelly Juleson (Office of the Speaker of the House), Marty Zito, DDS *Staff* – Chris Sloss

Welcome and Introductions - Meeting was brought to order by Karen Zrenda at 10:30, delay due to technical difficulties with the conference call. Introductions were made. A quorum of voting members is present today.

Public Comments-

Vicki Veltri spoke to the group regarding proposed HB # 6152: An Act Establishing a Medical Expenses Pool which was created to help families of children with the costs of medical expenses for which they may not otherwise be able to get coverage. It will apply only to those with private insurance, not Medicaid. If passed, work can be done to expand to Medicaid next year.

The commission is responsible for developing guidelines and criteria to decide priority of expenses and gives OCA the power to implement the program once the families private insurance has been exhausted. If the fund runs out, it runs out for the year, there is no entitlement. There will be a mechanism to get additional funds for the pool through grants. This will be explored. Cost will be \$1 for every covered life (covered by insurance) in CT per year. It will be collected through DRS. Advantage –they can track trends of what a large percentage of the population is in need of and share with the legislature.

Vicki recommends that people speak to their state senators about this to try to get it through. Senator Joe Crisco, Senator Don Williams, Senator Martin Looney, Senator John McKinney and Senator Dan Debicella and Craig Minor. Do not underestimate the importance of a phone call. In this state five phone calls can change a vote! If you have any questions about this bill please contact Vicki at 860-297-3982. Elaine Zimmerman requested you let Tom Brooks know when you have contacted a legislator; COC will keep a tally and report back to the council.

Point Of Order

Co-chair, Karen Zrenda, referenced an email that was sent out by Council member Michael Selvaggi, notifying members and many other individuals who attend our meetings that the

meeting was canceled. Karen advised the group that he was out of order. No one can take it upon themselves to cancel a meeting. The request must go through the co-chairs. Several members expressed that it was confusing to get that email. A copy of the email was passed around the meeting for those who had not seen it. Mr. Selvaggi was not in attendance to explain his actions or content of the email.

Acceptance of the April minutes

Motion to accept the minutes by Karen Hlavac, seconded by Cindy Stramandinoli. Terry clarified that because of the state holiday (Good Friday) the minutes were posted on the web within seven business days of the meeting so we were in compliance with FOI on this.

Karen H asked if we had clarification yet regarding electronic signature vs typed signature. We do not yet have clarification on this. All in favor of accepting the minutes as presented. None against. Merva abstained. Motion passed.

Request for a letter of Support from the FSN

The Family Support Network has been working for two years in partnership with CHDI on a Title V grant around the medical home model, providing education and outreach to families and pediatric practices around what the medical home, care coordination and family centered care should look like. Statewide Coordinator, Jennifer Carroll, requested a letter of support from the CTFSC to attach to their proposal. Merva informed the group that AFCAMP is also submitting a proposal for the same grant and would like to request a letter of support from the CTFSC also. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to write individual letters of support for both the FSN and AFCAMP pending receipt of an abstract from Merva so we can speak to that. Terry seconded it. All in favor. Ann Gionet (DPH) abstained. Merva votes in favor of the network and abstains from her request. None against.

By-laws

According to current bylaws, the amended by-laws must be mailed to all members 30 days prior to voting on them. A draft copy of the proposed amended bylaws were mailed out by email, the Council's normal method of communication. The email sent out by Michael Selvaggi questions the Council's method of mailing out the proposed amended bylaws.

There is no indication in the bylaws that had to be sent via U.S. Postal Service, and all communication between members is through email. Suggestion was made to mail out the bylaws via U.S. Postal Service to avoid any possible misunderstanding and to table the vote until next month. Ann G commented that state agencies have received executive directive #3 from the Governor asking all agencies to use paperless process' whenever possible. This is specific to agencies but she is wondering if it would make sense for our council to follow the directive from the Governor as well.

Joan Law commented that we do not have a budget for mailing and therefore made a motion to accept that our primary form of communication be electronic mail unless requested otherwise by a member who may not have access to e-mail in which case theirs would be mailed via U.S. mail. Seconded by Cindy S. all in favor, none against, none abstain.

Noted was the FOI requirement to post the agenda 24 hours in advance. The agenda was posted within this time frame but the proposed amendments were not attached to the agenda. Karen H

made a motion to table the By-laws until next months meeting. Seconded by Merva. All in favor. None against. No abstentions.

Meeting Schedule:

Chris shared the results of the survey to the council regarding our meeting schedule. The results showed that a Thursday meeting (daytime) schedule is best for the majority though we will always have at least 1 person who has a conflict on a particular Thursday of the month. Terry made a motion that we keep our regular meeting the 2nd Thursday of the month in the morning. Seconded by Karen H. All in favor. None against. No abstentions.

Agency Updates:

Terry shared the following regarding changes within DDS:

Respite Centers – due to anticipated staffing reductions, DDS will not be opening the respite centers 7 days a week during weeks in the summer as in the past. They will continue with a 5 day per week opening.

Changes in Case Management- Due to the anticipated retirement of several case managers, effective July 1st DDS will no longer continue to provide case management to individuals who are not enrolled in fee-for service Medicaid nor individuals who live in private ICF/MR community living arrangements. There are a few exceptions. This is an administrative decision.

Terry will ask that information be posted on the DDS website for families.

Guest Speaker: Sheldon Toubman of New Haven Legal Assistance Association

Sheldon was here to share the appropriations committee’s decision to adopt the Governors proposal to Gut the definition of Medical necessity. He asked that the Family Support Council speak to legislators and request that they keep the definition as it is and sign on to the fact sheet presented by Sheldon.

Planning a press conference for Thursday May 21, 2009. He asked that we share this information with our families who will be directly affected and ask for their participation at the press conference.

Robyn made a motion to sign on to the fact sheet presented by Sheldon. Seconded by Joan. No discussion, all in favor, none against, Terry abstained.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the meeting by Joan, Seconded by Karen Z – meeting adjourned at 12:15.