



## CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

### April 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Location:** Office of Protection and Advocacy, Hartford

**In attendance:** Karen Hlavac, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Lisa Sheppard, *Co-Chair*, Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood

April Dipollina, Ann Gionet, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Sharri Lungarini (ICC Vice Chair) present via telephone

**Excused Absence:** Jennifer Carroll, Terry Cote, Sharon Dexler, Colleen Hayes, Tesha Imperati, Miriam Martinez, Robyn Trowbridge, *Co-Chair*

**Absent:** Mark Greenstein, MD, Steven Hernandez, Esq., Maureen Smith

**Call to Order:** 10:18 a.m. by Lisa Sheppard, *Co-Chair*

Introduction of Committee members in person and on the phone.

**Public Comment:** No public present.

**Review of March minutes:** Reviewed the minutes from March 14 and the following corrections were made:

- Remove language on the first page around creation of a DVD that Mona is working on because it is addressed elsewhere in the minutes;
- Make a correction on top of the second page that Miriam Martinez was the Council member who brought up the Massachusetts website; and
- Add Linda Mizzi to the list for the school climate sub-committee.

Ann Gionet made a motion to accept minutes as written with 3 changes noted above; Mona Tremblay seconded and the motion was approved with Karen Hlavac and Sylvia Gafford-Alexander abstaining.

### Old Business

1. Letter of Support for DDS/ Council on Developmental Disabilities application for community partnership grant. A draft letter was prepared will be finalized so that Robin Wood can take it with her at the end of the meeting today. Robin reported that DDS received a number of letters

of support.

2. Creation of DVD/family stories - Robin Wood and Mona Tremblay are meeting after today's Family Support Council meeting. DDS is developing a video lab which may be helpful as a way of pulling together family stories; there was discussion about the potential for multiple uses for this product once completed.
3. Legislative Breakfast/Annual Report - Follow-up specifically on legislative breakfast was not discussed. The report has not been distributed as of yet. The cover letter for the Governor is in the process of being written. There are several corrections needed in the PDF version of the report which will be made for the broader distribution. Council members are requested to do a final review and send any additional corrections to Lisa Sheppard and Robin Trowbridge.

## **New Business**

Ann Gionet announced the Commissioner of the Department of Public health is holding a town hall meeting today which will be posted on the DPH website.

Robin Wood raised the possibility of utilizing DDS video conferencing which is available in DDS offices as a way to facilitate participation from across the state. DDS has 4 offices with large screens and capacity on smaller computers in 8 other offices. Robin is willing to coordinate this and would need to check for availability. Council members were in favor of further exploration of this as a way to bring more members together and it was noted that it is even more inclusive than phone conferencing. It was agreed that there would still need to be a main site for the meeting at one of the locations with a large screen (Hartford, East Hartford, Wallingford and New Haven). Questions raised were: whether this would require a change in Bylaws; whether there should be a requirement for some number of face-to-face meetings; a question of how the public would be notified if they wanted to participate; and call in capacity would still be necessary for individuals who could not get to one of the DDS offices. It was recommended that the Council try at least one meeting using this format and then evaluate if it will work for all meetings. Robin and Lisa Sheppard will review options and check schedules at DDS to determine if this can be done for the next meeting.

## **Standing Agenda Items**

School Climate Sub-Committee (Carlos Colon, Sharon Dexler, Tesha Imperati, Lisa Sheppard, Marie Bennett) - the committee has not been able to meet but members present today will convene after the Council meeting to set up a meeting. The "think tank" is part of the committee's focus.

DVD/Family Stories Sub-Committee (Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood, April Dipollina, and Robyn Trowbridge) will be added as a standing agenda item.

## **Follow-Up**

Decision about legislative presentation

Corrections to Annual Report

Cover letter to accompany Annual Report to the Legislators, Governor and Commissioners

Larger distribution of Annual Report

Family stories DVD

School climate training

**Announcements:**

Sharri Lungarini discussed potential websites for sharing documents, video, meeting information, etc. with many features that could support the Council. Security issues were raised as a concern. Members are encouraged to explore options and this can continue to be discussed.

Linda Mizzi announced an International conference titled "Innovative Partnerships and Practices: The Path to Success for Parents with Learning Difficulties and other cognitive Limitations. A save the date flyer for October 1 and 2, 2013 was handed out.

Sara Lourie asked about assistance in getting the word out around the need to recruit family members and consumers for the TBI Advisory Council.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.**

**Next meeting: May 9, 2013**

Minutes recorded by Sara Lourie, Interim Secretary