



DRAFT

CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2013

Location: Office of Protection and Advocacy

In attendance: Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Colleen Hayles, Karen Hlavac, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Mona Tremblay, Robyn Trowbridge

By phone: Sharon Dexler, April Dipollina, Ann Gionet, Lisa Sheppard, Renee Toper

Excused Absence: Wade Chartier (for ICC), Mark Greenstein

Absent: Steven Hernandez, Maureen Smith, Robin Wood

Call to Order: 10:11 am

Public Comment - none

Review of November Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and 2 corrections were made. Karen Hlavac made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and it was seconded by Mona Tremblay. The minutes were approved as corrected with April Dipollina and Mona Tremblay abstaining.

Announcements

Robyn Trowbridge summarized the recent Developmental Disabilities Provider Network meeting and the discussion with Commissioner Macy and providers regarding the bigger picture facing the DDS and the state in general. It was noted that there are no resources available to expand or enhance services and supports and there is a significant need for all stakeholders to bring a spirit of collaboration to the table. DDS is very interested in working closely with family, consumers, community members, advocates and providers to identify creative solutions. One applicable example of an initiative identified by FSC members is the creative housing forums that April Dipollina discussed which have been looking at enhancing existing programs, using natural supports, etc.

Robyn also announced that the formal release of the new Autism guidelines was held on December 9th at the Legislative Office Building with a panel discussion. Linda Mizzi can send it out electronically but it is also available through UCEDD. Council members have an interest in receiving more

information through a presentation around these new guidelines preferably at one of the regular meetings.

April Dipollina announced the January 22 Family Hearing Day at the Capitol which will provide opportunity for families to share stories with legislators. This is being sponsored by Senator Beth Bye, who is the newly named Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee and who chairs the Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disability Caucus. It was recommended that the Family Support Council provide some input in writing to Senator Bye; Karen Hlavac made a motion to have the Co-chairs draft a letter to Senator Bye; Sylvia Gafford-Alexander seconded the motion and it was passed by membership.

Linda Mizzi announced the Connecticut Partners in Policy Making 2014 self-advocacy training program and handed out copies of the application. The Council is a strong supporter of this program. Linda is one of the faculty as well as Renee Topper having graduated from a previous training class.

Mona Tremblay discussed the Early Childhood Council and the involvement of and interest from Representative May Flexor. In a recent meeting, there was a focus on the need for better screening, lack of best uniform best practices, lack of comprehensive behavioral health screening, no specific agreed upon tool for developmental screenings and the significant number of children who don't get screened at all by their doctors. Sara Lourie mentioned the new ACCESS project which will make consultation available for pediatricians from child psychiatrists to assist in early identification of children with behavioral health issues; this and a number of other initiatives are in process as part of comprehensive children mental health planning which is legislatively mandated. Another specific area of screening mentioned was that of lead testing; there still remains confusion about what is required and available; Linda Mizzi handed out a brochure developed by P & A called "Lead: Get Your Child Tested." Also mentioned was the lack of screening for ABI/TBI.

Old Business

Use of teleconferencing at DDS Offices - This will start as of February 1, 2014.

New Business

Annual Report/Legislative Agenda - Because of the close tie between these two items, they were discussed simultaneously.

In follow-up to conversation described above, screening is an area the Council would like to become more educated about and it was suggested the Council member Dr. Mark Greenstein be asked to do a specific presentation around developmental screenings; this would have to be arranged at a special time since he is not able to attend the regular Council meetings due to a standing conflict in his schedule.

For the report, there was sentiment that the Council should support efforts to push the state towards mandating a broad based comprehensive screening which would assure the early identification of children with any type of disability. This, along with school climate and maintaining a strong family voice are priorities for this year's annual report.

In addition to capturing discussion from previous Council meetings, it was reiterated that this years report will not be put in the RBA format or have a data focus. It was emphasized that the report needs

to have a positive focus and should identify things that are effective and working well. As an example, the community housing initiative mentioned above might something to highlight.

It was also suggested that we connect this year and last years reports with the concept of "moving forward." The state agencies could report the relevant "continuing threads" from last year to this year; with the possibility of including a "story" if available.

There was discussion about how/whether to acknowledge legislators who have been particularly supportive; it was suggested that families be encouraged to write letters of thanks to their legislators who model family support related legislative advocacy and support.

Volunteers for an annual report subcommittee were solicited: Mona, Sylvia, Ann, Karen and Robyn volunteered.

Standing Agenda Items

Membership Recruitment - The Office of Early Childhood is a new state entity which is not represented on the Council. Myra Jones-Taylor who heads up this office will be contacted. Mona also found recruitment materials which were used in the past. These can be used to develop updated recruitment materials.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary