



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2015

Location: Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

In attendance: Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Karen Hlavac, Sara Lourie, Allison Quirion, and Robin Wood

By phone: Marcus Rivera, Jody Santoro, and Lisa Sheppard

Absent: Laurie Cantwell, April Dipollina, Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez, Linda Mizzi, Renee Topper, and Mona Tremblay

Call to Order: 10:10 am

Public Comment: None

Approval of March Minutes – Corrections were needed to list of attendees; Karen Hlavac made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections; it was seconded by Robin Wood and approved by Council membership.

Old Business

Annual Report Update – Ann Gionet and other committee members provided an update; Council members had received the latest draft of the report via email and copies were also handed out at the meeting. There was lively discussion regarding:

- a. Title – many ideas explored and nothing was decided; Council members are trying to recall a suggestion made at a prior meeting that everyone liked;
- b. Family stories – there was discussion about whether they should be sprinkled throughout the report or placed together. Pros and cons weighed and it was eventually decided to keep them all together to avoid any confusion around whether a specific story was tied to a state agency and with the hope that it would be a powerful way to get points across;
- c. Report recommendations – lots of discussion about what to include - the draft had the recommendations from last year as a “place holder.” There were many ideas shared including but not limited to:
 - o The need to talk about transition services, particularly related to the DDS budget cuts;
 - o Boards and Councils need to take children with disabilities into consideration in all their conversations;

- The many areas of concern in the proposed budget;
- RBA, performance based work for state agencies; and
- Anniversary of IDEA and ADA.

d. Follow-up and next steps:

- Lisa working on the overview/introduction;
- Several Council members will draft recommendations for consideration;
- Suggested that we minimize the use of acronyms (or spell them out the first time it is used);
- Need introductions to both the family stories and state agency sections;
- Committee has two additional meetings scheduled and Council members were invited to attend;
- Need to complete prior to May meeting; and
- Still awaiting several additional family stories to add more depth and reflect a variety of circumstances.

Bylaws/Membership Update – draft bylaws handed out; 30 day review period required prior to finalization. Sara Lourie will send out to all members and they will be voted on at the May meeting.

Co-Chair Vacancy – Volunteers requested.

New Business

Impact of State Budget Cuts – Robin discussed continuing concern for DDS around funding for day services for high school graduates and the 60% cut to their Voluntary Services Program. The Council wants to highlight this in the Annual Report. Karen Hlavac encouraged families to contact legislators and share personal stories.

Adjournment – Karen Hlavac made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ann Gionet seconded it. After full Council vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary