



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2016

Location: Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Hartford, Connecticut

In attendance: Annika Burney, Laurie Cantwell, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi,
Isabelina Rodriguez, Lisa Sheppard,

On Phone: April Dipollina, Ann Gionet, Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood

Absent: Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez,
Allison Quirion, Jody Santoro, Renee Toper

Guests: Jackie Camarro, Blake Sheppard, Rene Breton (Our Families
Can't Wait – SEIU/1199)

Call to Order: 10:10 am by Lisa Sheppard, Co-Chair

Public Comment - Public Comment was given at the end of the meeting at which time Renee Breton, who is a Family Advocate and Union organizer, described the “#People Matter” Coalition including various stakeholders focused on the impact of the budget on human service providers. Rene is visiting a number of groups/councils to find out what is happening around the state in the area of human services and to make people aware of this coalition and its legislative and community advocacy. They have a particular interest in families of adults with ID/DD who are on wait lists for residential services.

Approval of February minutes - Ann Gionet made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. It was seconded by Mona Tremblay and approved by Council members who were present. Abstentions included Isabelina Rodriguez, Sara Lourie, Lisa Sheppard and Robin Wood.

Old Business:

Annual Report Update – New submissions have been received including family stories and the DSS update; there was discussion with the DDS and SDE members – their updates are in the process of being reviewed but may not be approved in time for the printing deadline. The decision was made to use reports from 2015 and to clearly indicate that these are reprints from last year (language to be: “Reprint of 2015 Annual Report Submission”). The goal is to have the Annual Report available for the April

Legislative Breakfast. The Executive and Annual Report Committees will complete a final review before going to Annika for printing.

Many thanks expressed to Allison Quirion for all her work in pulling together the document and making it look like one document vs. individual pieces from numerous contributors. Annika Burney was thanked again for her agency's willingness to cover the cost of printing. A decision was made that 300 copies would be printed.

Legislative Breakfast/2020 Focus – the Council is confirmed for the legislative event for April 7, 2016 in the Legislative Office Building 2nd floor Atrium (8:30 – 10:30 am). Linda Mizzi disseminated a “Save the Date” flier to Council members prior to the meeting. She also distributed a draft invitation requesting feedback/edits. This will be finalized and emailed to Council members for distribution. Family members on the Council are encouraged to share this with their Legislators and Legislative staff and to specifically invite them and encourage their attendance. April Dipollina will distribute to the Family Support Network and Council members are asked to disseminate as broadly as possible to get the word out.

Linda Mizzi reviewed the other areas needing input or follow-up including:

- a. Folders – Council members should let Linda know if there are other items besides the CTFSC 2016 Annual Report and Information on the 2020 campaign to be included.
- b. CTFSC Brochures will be available on the table (not sure how many are left).
- c. Wayne Camarro has offered to set up a video display and is collecting photos, videos and information sheets which can be displayed on a screen via a running loop during the event. Some items for inclusion are: excerpts from Governor Weicker's Community Inclusion video and information on the SDE Parent Café. Other photos and information can be sent to Wayne directly.
- d. Food and beverages is primarily being covered by the DD Council but CTFSC Council members are asked for contributions of baked goods and other items. Mona Tremblay will send out a sign-up sheet via email.
- e. Sign-in sheet - Sara Lourie will draft a sign in sheet to include name, contact information and identify if this is a legislator. It was undecided whether name tags would differentiate the Legislators/Legislative staff from other attendees; this will be discussed more.
- f. Set-up – Linda Mizzi requested volunteers for set up.
- g. Lisa Sheppard will do the welcome and introductions of the 3 speakers: Leslie Simoes (Executive Director of ARC of CT), a family member discussing transition from Southbury Training School to community inclusion and Allan Bergman, Public Policy expert discussing the 2020 campaign.

Follow-up on February 11 Education Presentation – This was tabled until the next meeting as the Council felt it was important to include Allison Quirion in this discussion.

New Business:

Follow-up on scheduling presentations/discussions – The Council is looking at which groups to invite to future meetings. Isabelina Rodriguez raised the possibility of having Melissa Marshall (All Abilities Alliance) and Roland Harmon (Governor's Prevention

Partnership) come to discuss their work with school districts and the community on an antidiscrimination/anti-bullying initiative. Council members were interested and this will be planned for the May meeting if possible.

Membership/Nominations Committee – Linda Mizzi reported having received a call from the Governor's office with questions regarding the application for Wayne and Jackie Camarro. Linda is hoping they will eventually both be approved but does expect that Wayne will be appointed shortly.

Family Networking Committee – no update for this meeting.

Announcements:

Ann Gionet mentioned that we still need for a name for the Annual Report; it was decided to keep the same name as last year but indicate this is a 2016 update.

It was decided that even though the Legislative Meet and Greet is on April 7, the Council will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on April 14 to allow for follow-up/debriefing on the event and continued momentum on other topic areas.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary