



## CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

**In Attendance:** Joan Berere, Laurie Cantwell, Lynn Fogg-Cornelio, Ann Gionet, Sara Lourie,  
Linda Mizzi, Allison Quirion, Isabelina Rodriquez, Lisa Sheppard

**On Phone:** April Dipollina

**Absent:** Annika Burney, Mark Greenstein, Jody Santoro, Renee Toper, Mona Tremblay  
Robin Wood

**Guests:**

**Call to Order:** 10:24 am by Lisa Sheppard

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of June Minutes:** Isabelina Rodriquez made a motion to accept minutes as written; Laurie Cantwell seconded the motion and it was approved by the Council members present. Abstentions included Allison Quirion, Ann Gionet, and Joan Barere.

**Old Business:**

**Membership/Nominations Committee-** Joan Berere, JD, Director of Development and Special Projects will be replacing Steven Hernandez as Designee from the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors which replaces the former Commission on Children. Steven Hernandez is now the Executive Director of this combined Commission.

Wayne Camarro and his wife, Jackie will submit applications to join the council. He initially was concerned about the time commitment and having limited availability. He has decided to move forward and will share the responsibility with his wife. The hope is that if he is unable to attend, she will in lieu of his absence. The Council is very pleased as Wayne and Jackie will be valuable resources to the council.

Discussion regarding new membership included agency representation from the Office of Early Childhood, Office of the Child Advocate, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), Parents with Disabilities, and a Pediatrician. Additionally, the importance of having family member representation from the CTFSN,

Parents Opening Doors, PATH, CPAC and AFCAMP was discussed. It was felt that their participation would be extremely valuable. Adding the Office of the HealthCare Advocate is also a goal but will require a statute update which can hopefully be done in the future.

Linda Mizzi stated that a membership drive is slated for October as part of the Partners in Policymaking Celebration. This will provide an opportunity to share information about the Council and hopefully invite interested families to join.

Linda invited a parent to today's meeting, who did not attend. Linda will follow-up with her.

Joan Berere asked about the Statutes regarding agency mandates on membership and should it be reviewed. She asked if there is a list of Council members and their appointing authority and should the Council concentrate on new membership based upon Legislative vacancies with consideration of the districts represented and recruit new members in those areas of the state.

**Family Networking Committee**- Ann Gionet reiterated the importance for the increase of family voices as a continuing issue.

**Update on 2020 Campaign**- Lisa Shepard will meet with Molly Cole to discuss a *Meet and Greet* with Legislators to provide more information on the 2020 Campaign. A special presentation using the CTFSC 2016 Annual Report to provide additional information about the Council will be discussed. The *Meet and Greet* will need to be scheduled soon, as Molly Cole is retiring November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

#### **New Business:**

**Election of Officers** – Council members present provided a quorum in order to elect the nominees for Co-Chairs and the Secretary. Lisa Shepard asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor three times and there were none. A motion to accept the nominations as slated was announced. A majority vote was cast to accept all nominees.

Co-Chair- Lisa Shepard (Parent)  
Co-Chair- Laurie Cantwell (Parent)  
Secretary – Linda Mizzi (OPA)

**Updated Contact List** – Sara Lourie will review and verify if all contact information has been submitted and updated.

**September Retreat** – Dates and locations were discussed. Due to conflicts in member's schedules, additional dates were proposed: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Although Camp Harkness has been the location used historically, there are a number of Council members who have difficulty with the distance so other alternative locations were explored with Middletown being a possibility. There was concern that if it is held at Camp Harkness there will be fewer members who can attend.

The purpose and outcome of the retreat was discussed. Members would like to have a speaker to assist with the goals and direction of the Council for the upcoming year. Linda Mizzi suggested Alan Bergman to present and facilitate at the CTFSC Retreat as he is familiar with Connecticut, the 2020 Campaign issues and could help facilitate the direction and focus for the Council's future goals. Alan will be presenting at

the Partners in Policymaking Celebration in October. Lisa Sheppard will contact Molly Cole from the CT DD Council to request possible funding for Mr. Bergman's fees. Lisa will also ask Molly if she has any other recommendations for presenters if Alan Bergman is not available.

Furthering the discussion around logistics and funding, it was felt that perhaps a better option would be to see if Mr. Bergman would be available an additional day in October instead of asking him to come to CT in September and again in October.

Ann Gionet suggested the Council may want to include a follow-up call if further direction or discussion is necessary.

As part of the discussion it was suggested that CPAC (Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center) be invited to a future meeting of the Council to discuss projects on which they are working. It was also noted that they are looking for family stories around experiences with the education system.

**RETREAT: *The date and location of the Retreat will be decided after a speaker/facilitator has been confirmed.***

**Announcements: None**

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm by Lisa Sheppard.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Fogg-Cornelio, DDS