



**CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**January 12, 2017-revised**

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**Meeting Location:** Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
60 B Weston Street, Hartford, CT.

**In Attendance:** Laurie Cantwell, Ann Gionet, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Allison Quirion,  
Lisa Sheppard, Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood,

**Absent:** Annika Burney, Wayne Camarro, April Dipollina, Cindy Jackson, Joan  
Barere, Isabelina Rodriquez, Renee Toper

**Guests:** Colleen McGill

**Call to Order:** 10:15 am by Lisa Sheppard

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of December Minutes:** Robin Wood made a motion to accept the minutes as  
written; Mona Tremblay seconded the motion and it was approved by the Council members  
present. Allison Quirion abstained.

**Old Business:**

Lisa commented on the Council's previous year's accomplishments; development of a new  
Vision and Mission Statement and new goals through the facilitation of Alan Bergman.

**Approve Family Support Definition and Goals** - Last month the Council approved the  
Mission, Vision, Statutory Language and Definition of Family Supports.

Today the Council discussed the **Core Values** and **Goal statements**. Based upon the  
Council's focus on children and youth with disabilities, **Across the Life Span** was removed.  
**Assistive Technology** was removed as it was not regarded as a value. Changes:

**Core Values:**

Flexible  
Strengths-Based  
Best Practice  
Culturally Competent  
Supportive of Children and Families  
Comprehensive  
Integrity

Motion to Accept Core Values: Laurie Cantwell made a motion to accept, Sara Lourie  
seconded. Motion passed.

The **goal statements** were edited, the changes are as follows:

- Provide information, education and training
- Connect and network families, family groups and self-advocates for mutual support, and
- Advocate for full access to generic and specialized goods, services and supports that are specific to the daily needs of the family and the person with a disability.

Motion to accept the changes to the Goal Statements, Mona Tremblay made a motion to accept, Laurie Cantwell seconded. Motion carries.

**Review letter to Agency Membership:** Review of the Letter to Agency Commissioners was tabled until further discussion regarding Council's future focus and direction.

**Membership/Nominations Committee:** Tabled until next meeting.

**Networking Committee:** Tabled until next meeting

**Update on 2020 Campaign:** Tabled until next meeting

**Updated Contact List:** Sara Lourie will send the contact list to Council members for review and updates. Tabled until next meeting

**Annual Report Planning:** Ann Gionet stated that several agencies had not yet submitted their annual reports. The date for submission has been extended until January 19<sup>th</sup>. Agency reports should be limited to one page.

Allison Quirion made a request for family letters to be included in the annual report. Council members were asked to share the request with families and the CTFSN. A discussion regarding Alan Bergman's previous points about the importance of "language" used in the letters that are shared with legislators. Suggestions for the letters include the individual's name and town they reside in (if they wish to disclose), family issue, resolution suggested and successes.

**Legislative Report:** Allison Quirion submitted the meeting minutes from the Legislative Committee's November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Attending the meeting was Allison and Joan Barere. Discussion to amend Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 17a-219c, the statute forming the Family Support Council ("FSC") resulted in the following recommendations:

- ◆ Postpone amendment of the Statute within the upcoming 2017 session
- ◆ Perform an analysis of the lineage of the FSC
  - Original agencies
  - Original mandates
  - Original legislation
- ◆ Bring forward the lineage of the FSC and analyze from current legislation what is now in place for FSC:
  - Current agencies
  - Current mandates
  - Current legislation
- ◆ Determine how the FSC is currently affected by agency changes.
- ◆ Determine what could/should current membership look like based upon the analysis.

Joan will ask for the assistance of a legal intern to perform the lineage and analysis tasks. The Legislative Committee will continue to keep the Council abreast of the progress.

## CTFSC Meeting Minutes-Revisions

### New Business:

The Executive Board met to discuss the Council's future initiatives. Robin Wood discussed ideas of connecting with other family advocacy groups with the Executive Board. Lisa Sheppard asked Robin to present to Council members at today's meeting. Robin disseminated a packet of forms to use as examples that aligned with the major talking points of her presentation. She explained that the Council has the greatest access and ongoing avenue to legislators through member appointments and mandates. If other family advocacy groups could connect with the Council, they would be in a better position to leverage their concerns and issues to Legislators through the Council. One way to accomplish this will be through the collaboration of CT Family Advocacy groups and State Agency Representatives. It will allow the Council to provide a more complete picture of family support needs to Legislators.

Robin suggested the following as a means to accomplishing this goal:

- State Agencies provide reports to the Council;
- Council meets 3x's per year with the family advocacy groups to hear their concerns;
- During follow-up council meetings, members review and discuss the information from the state agency reports and the family advocacy groups to determine what to report to legislators.

Robin continued to share her ideas, referencing the LifeCourse Framework and how it could align with the Council's recent Vision and Mission Statements. Robin reviewed how she envisioned the forms could be used, to assist the Council.

- **Icons:** LifeCourse symbols can provide a common or universal language which could be helpful to families, legislators and agencies alike.
- **Chart of Appointed Members:** The chart, if used, needs to be updated with the correct districts and current appointee's names.
- **State Agency Summary Report:** This form provides a way to organize information and ensure that we are consistently answering the following questions? What's new?, What's next?, What's missing?
- **Circle Graphic/Action Plan:** A graphic with the roles and responsibilities of each group.

**Motion to adopt:** The Roles and Responsibilities of Working Together action plan  
(Conversation switched direction and was not returned to for a motion)

### Meeting Schedule:

Robin spoke with Rod O'Connor, Legislative Liaison from DDS regarding important dates to speak with legislators. The Council's schedule was the same dates as the current schedule but included dates to meet with the CT Family Advocacy groups and proposed dates for state agency updates and dates to discuss information to report to Legislators.

\*\*Revisions to schedule: OPA will not be available to host meetings after May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. An alternate location will be explored.

**Motion to accept:** The 2017 meeting schedule accepted. Reports to Legislators and the meetings scheduled with the CT Family Advocacy Groups require further discussion.

**Summer Meetings:** To discuss what issues came up over the past six months. What do we see on the landscape? Are there important issues the Council foresees needing more information or education on?

**Retreat:** It was recommended that the retreat be facilitated once again. It was extremely helpful to the Council this past year.

**Next Steps:**

A meeting is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to bring together Ct Family Advocacy groups and Council members together to begin a discussion of family's support needs in CT.

The meeting will be held at the DDS Wallingford office from 9:30-11:30. The CT Family Support Network and DDS will work together to assist the FSC with organizing, coordinating, providing minutes and further outreach to family groups.

**Review of the Letter:** An invitation letter to the Family Advocacy Groups was drafted and reviewed by the Council. Several recommendations, suggestions and edits were made. The edited letter will be forwarded to the Executive Board for final approval prior to dissemination.

**Conclusion:**

<b>Discussion Highlights:</b>	
<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
Meet with Family Advocacy groups. Use as a focus group and return to the table for a think-tank to discuss shared info	We are not prepared. Once we get information from them, then what?
Information from Family Advocacy Groups, will provide the Council with more information from the Community and other families. The Council gives them two advantages: 1. Legislator contact 2. Contact with state agencies.	How do we prioritize issues and what do we do with the information?  Will the Council continue to focus on the groups that we have been linked with in the past?
Ability to provide data/documentation to Legislators. Council is a feedback loop to Legislators. We have a charge of identifying gaps.	Appointed Council members not feeling comfortable going to speak with Legislators. Huge undertaking. Do not like the word script.
Great framework/outline, good building block for Council to use to help move forward, to focus and to provide a direction	What are we doing? The Council is stuck.
Council needs to be re-energized	Moving too fast, council needs more time to digest all this information, to give more input,
The Council has new Vision and Mission Statements. New goals	We don't have any action plans to support the new Vision, Mission and goals
Invite Family Advocacy Groups to CTFSC meetings	
Council has assistance from CTFSN and DDS to help coordinate, organize, and disseminate info from the combined meetings	
Need to think of other ways to reach Legislators: press release, 5 x 7 info cards, letters, slideshows,	Provide Annual Report to Legislators who may or may not read it. No follow-up
State Agency reports provide one-page updates on initiatives and supports to families. Report would provide information on what the agency is looking at right now, is there anything the agency is missing or anything else they should be focused on.	How do request state agencies to provide reports? Timewise- How will they all report out at meetings?

- ❖ The members will discuss the future focus on the roles and responsibilities of the Council along with the combined efforts of the Family Advocacy groups.
- ❖ The Council will discuss the best avenue to inform Legislators about the needs of CT families.
- ❖ In addition, the Council will review past goals, what was accomplished, how they were accomplished and if not completed, why not.
- ❖ The Council felt they needed more time to further discuss the information presented today.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** At 12:10 p.m. Laurie Cantwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sara Lourie seconded the motion.

**Next Meeting:** **CT FSC and the Family Advocacy Groups will meet**  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
DDS Wallingford Office  
9:30 am -11:30 pm.

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> OP&A, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm