

## West Region Advisory Council Minutes

June 27, 2013

55 West Main Street, Waterbury, CT

10:00 a.m.

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Attendees: Karleen Craddock, Fritz Gorst, Mickey Herbst, Lieselotte Schwab, Arlene Steinfeld, Cindy Stramandinoli

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### Announcements:

- **Budget**  
The group reviewed the end of the fiscal year and the FY 13 budget and discussed the FY 14 budget going forward.
- **Long-Term Care**  
There was a discussion on the Department's new approach on long-term care prevention and individuals going to nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. The new Director of Health Services, Lakisha Hyatt, is in the process of working with all of the regions to develop a new protocol which will help prevent the use of nursing homes when not necessary.
- **Respite**  
There was a discussion about respite services in the department and the region. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, respite hours were expanded at the state operated respite centers with all regions being open as follows: All four respite centers are open at 4pm on Thursdays and close at 10 am on Mondays.

#### Summer respite hours – only at two locations

LFC:           Week One     08/08/13- 08/14/13  
                  Week Two     08/15/13- 08/21/13

Torrington:   Week One     08/12/13 to 08/16/13  
                  Week Two     08/19/13 to 08/23/13

### Grads

There was also discussion on grads and the funding that would be available for any individuals that wanted to start their new day program on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cindy Stramandinoli brought up an example of a mother that had called her and was still unaware if her son would be starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. After looking into it, we found that resource management was in the process of getting the contract together and getting the funding allocated and that the case manager is not allowed to inform the parents until all of that work has taken place. Unfortunately, it is a lot of work for a lot of individuals and sometimes we are dealing with the last week of June before we can notify families. (In the past, sometimes families have been notified only to find out that the money is not available until October 1<sup>st</sup>, January 1<sup>st</sup> which has actually happened).

### **Emergencies**

There was discussion about the regions emergency placements and how many individuals we had that were waiting.

### **New Members**

Mickey brought up the topic of looking for new members to the RAC. The focus will be on family members who are currently not receiving services or potentially someone whose child is on the emergency list.

### **Café to Go**

The Café to Go concept is still being pursued for a session about respite in the Fall.

### **2013-2014 Schedule of Meetings**

- Sept 19<sup>th</sup> (EGC) 4:30 pm
- Nov 21<sup>st</sup> (EGC) 10:00 am
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> (EGC) 4:30 pm
- March 20<sup>th</sup> (EGC) 10:00 am
- May 15<sup>th</sup> (EGC) 4:30 pm