



Claudio Gaultieri  
Chair

### **PCA Workforce Council meeting May 12, 2022**

Council Members in Attendance: Claudio Gaultieri (Chair), Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Kathy Flaherty, CT Legal Rights Project (CLRP); Dawn Lambert, Department of Social Services (DSS); Fran Mazzarella, CIL; Denise Paladino, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Adam Prizio, Office of the Health Care Advocate (OHA); Fran Sinish, Parent; Lucas Sundwall, Consumer-Employer; and Margaret Shugrue-Szymanski, Parent

Others in Attendance: Sheldon Toubman, Disability Rights Connecticut; Georgia Massari, and Karri Filek, DSS; Melissa Morton and Heather Ferguson-Hull (Council staff)

Call to order by Chair Claudio Gaultieri at 1:03 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Claudio Gaultieri noted that this is his first meeting as chair. He introduced Heather Ferguson-Hull, who is new to OPM and will be providing staff support to the Council. He added that Melissa Morton will be training and supervising her. All correspondence should be sent to both of them.

2. Collective Bargaining Wrap-Up

Mr. Gaultieri touched on the overarching principles that guided negotiations: Consumer-Employer rights and the value of self-direction; the continued work of rebalancing and providing services to people in the setting of their choice; and the importance of supporting the PCA workforce and their ongoing professional development.

Ms. Ferguson-Hull presented slides, giving an overview of the CBA. Denise Paladino talked about the implementation process. Memos for consumer-employers are being drafted by the agencies and will be circulated for review.

3. Council Priorities for SFY 2023

Melissa Morton reviewed Council involvement in negotiations. She also talked about new member orientation, and next steps for the subcommittee. Ms. Morton also discussed the potential benefit of the Council engaging in strategic planning, and she requested feedback from members regarding their interest in attending a half-day retreat. The purpose would be to focus the mission and goals of the Council around concrete strategies for the work ahead. The Council members expressed interest in such a retreat.

4. 2023 Employer Forum

Ms. Morton shared that the Council had previously hosted full-day consumer-employer forums in the fall, taking place in different parts of the state. This forum has not been held in two years, and she gauged the Council's interest in resuming this event. She added that it would provide an opportunity for Consumer-Employers to connect, and for the Council to hear about the issues that



concern them. The Fiscal Intermediaries have sent representatives in the past, and the forum has been a vehicle for consumer-employer networking and education. Past attendance has varied from 80-125 Consumer-Employers. Most members expressed an interest in hosting a forum in person, and the possibility of meeting in an outdoor venue was raised.

5. Membership Update

Ms. Morton shared that there had been momentum in filling vacancies on the Council, but there are currently 3-4 more appointments to fill. She is hoping that the diversity of the Council could be expanded, and she stressed the importance of hearing the voices of Consumer-Employers. Ms. Morton provided the descriptions of each vacancy and asked current Council members to reach out to people who might be willing to serve on the Council and send the names of and contact information for any interested individuals to Ms. Ferguson-Hull and Ms. Morton so they can talk with them to explain the work of the Council and confirm their interest in serving as a member.

6. Public Comment

Sheldon Toubman from Disability Rights Connecticut prefaced his comments with the acknowledgment that this may not be the appropriate forum for them. He expressed concern about the long waiting list for the PCA waiver program, stating that his understanding is that the current wait time is 3.5-4 years. He noted that the CT Home Care Program for Elders does not currently have a waiting list. Mr. Toubman also expressed concern about the impact of Medicaid determinations as part of the Public Health Emergency ending and the potential impact to Medicaid clients.

Mr. Gualtieri agreed that this issue is outside the purview of the Council but thanked Mr. Toubman for sharing this important concern.

7. Executive Session

Vote to Enter Executive Session: Dawn Lambert made a motion to enter executive session to Debrief the Collective Bargaining process that concluded in April 2022. Kathy Flaherty seconded. All members voted in favor. Executive Session entered at 2:16 PM.

8. Adjournment

Vote to Adjourn: Kathy Flaherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lucas Sundwall seconded. All members voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Full meeting recording can be accessed here:

<https://youtu.be/wJCljO9cFCs>

Recording of vote to adjourn can be accessed here:

[https://youtu.be/WvcI0PQe\\_FI](https://youtu.be/WvcI0PQe_FI)