

Connecticut Family Support Council
Monthly Meeting
December 10, 2009

Place: DDS East Hartford with a call-in option

Time: 10:16am-12:35pm (starting time delayed by inclement weather and traffic issues)

Facilitators: Karen Hlavac and Robyn Trowbridge

Recorder: Robyn Trowbridge, Karen Zrenda

Voting members: Karen Hlavac (Parent/Co-chair), Robyn Trowbridge (Parent/ co-chair), Kathy Reddington (DDS), Lisa Sheppard (Parent), Jen Carroll (Parent), Mona Tremblay (Parent), Colleen Hayes (Dept of Ed), Merva Jackson (Parent/call-in), Moira O'Neill (OCA/call-in), Karen Zrenda (Parent), Alice Buttwell (parent/call-in), Ann Gionet (DPH). **Quorum is present.**

Others: Tesha Imperati (FSN), Terry Cote, April Dipolina (FSN/Call-in), Deb Pagano (B-3/Call-in), Chris Sloss (Parent/Staff to Council/Call-in)

Call to Order: 10:16am

Public Comment

Jen Carroll presented information regarding Covenant Prep, a new Charter Middle School in Hartford. She reviewed their innovated approach to learning and distributed handouts for members to review. Jen is available for additional information.

Kathy Reddington tabled for discussion the meeting location for the Family Support Council's future meetings. It was decided that the January meeting will be held at the DDS in Wallingford and she will make attempts to secure a rotation for subsequent meeting between DDS East Hartford and DDS Wallingford.

Karen Hlavac presented a recent article from CT Nursing News, in which Council member Moira O'Neill was interviewed.

Approval of November Minutes: Motion to accept the November minutes with changes was made by Karen Zrenda, seconded by Mona Tremblay. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Nominations for Secretary: Lisa Sheppard: nominated by Kathy Reddington, seconded by Robyn Trowbridge; Tesha Imperati: nominated by Karen Zrenda (Tesha is currently not eligible for nomination as she is not an appointed member)

Nominations will stand until January meeting and any additional nominations can be made from the floor at that time.

New Business:

List serve: Karen Zrenda reported that the list serve is up and running. It will not be a listserve for conducting FSC business, but rather a sharing of resources and problem-solving around family supports. Participants will have to agree to follow guidelines of the listserve. Karen will send a general announcement to members and an invitation to those needing one in order to participate.

Survey: Moira O'Neill reviewed the current draft of the survey that will be used in the coming weeks to assess target areas of focus for the Council in the up-coming Legislative session. She is finalizing the draft at this time and will release the survey for review to members in the coming weeks. Survey Monkey was utilized for the survey and can be used to assist in the tabulation of data once responses are secured.

Legislative Meet and Greet: Application has been submitted for this to occur in the Atrium of the LOB on March 3 from 8:30-11:30am.

Annual Recognition Award: Three nominations have been received for consideration to date. At least one more is expected. The nomination Committee will review and determine award recipients for this year's award. Announcements will be made to the membership at the January Family Support Council meeting.

Annual Report: It was explained that recommendations are due in January and the annual report is due in February. It will include a summary of items discussed at the Family Support Council's annual retreat. Members also recommend acknowledging the passing of the insurance bill for autism.

Agency Updates:

DPH(Ann Gionet): Concerns persist regarding the current deficit and the implications of the deficit mitigation plan. If passed, it will result in cuts up to 25% of DPH and will have catastrophic impact on service provision. Announced that Tesha Imperati will be attending the AMCHP conference in D.C. as a family participant, representing CT's CSHCN Program.

DDS(Kathy Reddington): DDS has developed Help lines within each DDS Regions with two DDS Case Managers assigned to assist families that have lost Case Management with questions and issues. Kathy R. will send out regional toll-free phone numbers for HELPLINES.

SDE(Colleen Hayles): Parent survey is now available on line for those interested. A coalition for kids with hearing impairments is in existence and has developed a tool that can be used at PPTs. It is known as the Language/Communication worksheet. Colleen provided Council members with numerous hand outs of interest, including SRBI, SDE would like additional parent involvement on creation of brochure "Information for Parents"

Birth to Three(Deb Pagano): SICC will be having a meeting on 12/14/09 at CAFAT in Rocky Hill, 2189 silas Deane Hwy to discuss changes within the Birth to Three fee structure. This is an open meeting and it will begin at 8:15am. The SICC meets 4x's/yr. The new fee schedule will become effective in March, 2010 – discussion will be about the roll out of this.

FSN(Jennifer Carroll) – holding monthly staff meetings, often with speakers. Colleen Hayles spoke at last mtg about SRBI and next mtg Vicki Veltri will come talk about Sustinet.

Regional Reports:

Tesha Imperati, SC – shared story of supporting a family at a PPT and the provider recognized the value of FSN

Mona Tremblay, NE – families are suffering, increased poverty and despair. Scheduled a holiday event on 12/17, with Ann Tetreault as guest. Other events: Parent Night at Library Expressed concern there needs to be extended outreach by other agencies in NE, such as FAVOR and Families United.

Lisa Sheppard, SW – very busy; Events include Ableist Birth to Three Mock IEP; CPW (Cerebral Palsy Westchester) is coming in to work with families who have children aging out of system. This is the parent group Lisa has shared previously; shared family story of importance of Voluntary Services

April Dipollina, SE – Involved with Parent Power; getting more and more calls of individuals looking for services, confusing with cuts and changes; Has applied for two grants to continue funding for the summer camps that are currently in place

Alice Buttwell, NW – working with more families who are losing access to utilities due to decreased income; Partnerships include CT Parent Power and Early Childhood Alliance, continued outreach

Mona Tremblay made a motion to adjourn. Colleen Hayles seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35.

Alice: "Happy Holidays to all!" All in favor! Aye! Aye! Aye! . . .