

Connecticut Family Support Council
Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2010

Place: DDS Wallingford with call-in option

Time: 10:07 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Facilitator: Co-chairs Karen Hlavac and Robyn Trowbridge

Recorder: Chris Sloss

Participants:

Voting Members: Bruder, M (call-in), Butwell, A. (call-in), Carroll, J. (call-in), Dipollina, A (call-in), Gionet, A. (call-in), Hlavac, K., Hayles, C., Law, J., O'Neill M., Reddington, K.(call-in), Sheppard, L.(call-in), Trowbridge, R., Tremblay, M (call-in),

Guests: Adamczyk, C. (call-in), Cote, T. (call-in) Imperati, T., McDonald, E., Pagano, D.(call-in), Sloss, C.

Call to Order 10:07 am – Meeting called to order by Karen Hlavac at 10:07a.m.

Public Comment:

CT Association of Foster & Adoptive Parents annual conference will be May 21-22 in Groton. They are accepting proposals for workshops at the event. See their website to download the form. J. Carroll also shared information about their conference on March 27 which is a self-esteem workshop and royal luncheon. As part of the event they will be having a fairy Godmother initiative from 10a.m.-12noon and the remaining workshops will run 12:30pm-3:00pm. See J Carroll if you are interested in more information or the CAFAP's website.

On Friday, April 16th from 10:30am - 3:00 pm, the UCONN School of Pharmacy in Storrs, CT, is inviting 12 students of the transition age (16-21) who have a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism for a day of fun filled events. Students will get a tour of the school, hear presentations from pharmacy students and have an opportunity to make Vitamin C drops.

C. Adamczyk's group offers trainings for parents anywhere in the state around the history of disabilities and everything you want to know about IEP's. Must have 15-25 attendees to do the training. For further information contact Cathy Adamczyk at 860-679-1585.

K Hlavac. Passed around a flyer for an upcoming lecture series in MA. in April around Brain Injury, Stroke, Alzheimer's & Head Trauma for those who may be interested.

Approval of the minutes – Motion to accept the February 2010 minutes by J. Carroll seconded by R. Trowbridge All in Favor, None opposed, Motion carried.

FSC. Statute: Discussion ensued about the responsibility of members. M O'Neill suggested doing a self-assessment at a future meeting to see if we are clear on our goals,

if we have lost site of our purpose, and to help us define our direction. She offered to forward the instrument for self-assessments to be reviewed at a future meeting. The assignment for all members is to review the statute and come to the April FSC meeting prepared to discuss what we believe the FSC should be focusing on.

Legislative Meet & Greet - Discussion ensued around the perceived pros and cons of this year's legislative breakfast. The economy and cuts to family services was the main message. Families' fears were clearly expressed by our speakers. Some felt the need to have a concise mission in how we will move forward. One suggestion was to make a change to the structure of the meet and greet next year. Perhaps have a legislative panel as it was noted that key people were not in attendance.

Family Survey – K. Hlavac again thanked M. O'Neill for drafting this valuable tool. M. O'Neill reminded us that this was not scientific; we didn't get a lot of feedback about Title V and Voluntary Services. The report does however adequately reflect the concerns and needs of families whose children have significant needs who had difficulties with the process. It's hard to know the validity of the information gathered, but it did show that the information that is available to families does not appear to be clear. Further discussion ensued regarding the survey. It was suggested that in the future, our DDS representative be copied on all material that will be distributed publicly.

General Business – None

FSN & Agency updates – J. Carroll asked for clarification as to what her group should share and when. C. Sloss shared a document drafted by M O'Neill that helps to answer these questions. Discussion ensued regarding the need to revisit and clarify everyone's responsibilities.

Motion to adjourn at 12:00 noon– by A. Dipollina, seconded by R. Trowbridge,
Unanimous approval of the motion.