

CT CFSC Family Needs Committee  
05/27/10 meeting notes

Committee members present: In person at L&M Hospital April Dipollina, on phone- Mona Tremblay, Lisa Sheppard, Karen Hlavac, Kathleen Bradley, Chris Sloss, Cathy Admaczky, Laura Knapp

April opened the meeting by reading a list of needs identified a year ago, by a previous CT FSC committee on family needs.

April asked each person to identify what they felt were the top needs of families today.

Open discussion followed

Each member agreed that the needs are basically still the same as the year before only perhaps more intense.

**The needs that were identified were:**

**Rural affordable housing-** it was stressed that rural and urban housing issues needed to be addressed. ALL housing needs to be affordable, regardless of where one lives.

**Eligibility for services from DDS & DCF Voluntary Services-**the evaluation criteria and interpretation of test/scores needs to be standardized.

**DCF voluntary services-**information, referral process

**Special Education Law/ PPT-**There are not enough educational advocates to help families. There are liability issues that come into play when advocates are not properly trained. Cathy Admaczky stated that Rosa DeLauro had attended a meeting where a family's story of a hired educational advocate ended with a disastrous outcome for the family. They ended up losing their house as a result. Rosa DeLauro was said to be very upset by this.

**Transition from High School** –Families and professionals need more (correct) information and access to services for transitioning children out of school and into the community.

Misinformation or lack of information

**Loss of services / Case managers**

**Funding**

**Workforce**

**Respite**

**Transportation**

**A Coordinated Family Friendly System-** that provides current information for parents about services and advocacy

Each person was asked to give ideas for possible solutions.

**The following ideas for solutions were given:**

Eligibility for services- interpretation of test/scores-

Check with DDS & DCF for the regulations for eligibility and how scores are to be interpreted.

Evaluation should be standardized across the state.

Special Education Law/ PPT, Transition from High School-

Create a group of people who can go to PPT's with families.

By supporting, the agencies that are already doing this work, possibly through grants, and other funding we may not need to recreate the wheel.

Offer parent trainings to help build up the pool of available advocates. Follow up to find out if Rosa DeLauro is actually pursuing any legislation for certification once she heard about families losing their houses as a result of bad advice by ill informed advocates.

Transportation- Create a state wide pass for people with disabilities to use for all public transportation.

The committee will give a report to the CT FSC at the next meeting.

It was suggested that we try to meet at least once in person. Our next meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. The location is not confirmed however we are trying to book a room at DDS on 11 James St. in New Haven.

Respectfully submitted,  
April Dipollina