

CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

November 17, 2010

DDS New Haven, 370 James Street

Minutes

Present: Jennifer Carroll, Colleen Hayles, Cathleen Adamczyk, Deborah Pagano, Lisa Sheppard, Sharon Dexler, Robyn Trowbridge, Kathy Reddington, Tesha Imperati, Kathleen Bradley, Terry Cote (by phone)

Guests: Karleen Craddock (CT FSN), Margaret Cohan (CT DD Council)

**Call to Order** – Robyn Trowbridge, Co-chair

**Public Comment**

Margaret Cohan – The DD Council is pursuing a grant which will be used to purchase 140 accessible taxi cabs, but an expedited hearing must be held soon in order to comply with the January 2012 deadline for a startup date. The request for the expedited hearing must be made to Governor Rell. There is currently a letter-writing campaign underway to encourage the Governor to call for the DOT hearing. Taxi cabs would be available from Enfield to New Haven.

**Approval of October Minutes**

**Vote:** Motion to accept minutes from October meeting: Jennifer Carroll. Seconded by: Kathryn Reddington. Motion passed with 1 abstention (Cathleen Adamczyk).

*Noted for the record:* Lisa Sheppard did not participate by phone as indicated in Item 3.b. of the October 12<sup>th</sup> minutes.

**Council Operational Issues:**

Meetings: Because participation by phone can be ineffective, Lisa Sheppard will investigate alternate methods (Skype, iChat) for members to participate other than in person; she will report finding back to the Council at a future meeting. Meetings should be held in the Hartford area so that state agencies have easy access; Cathleen Adamczyk volunteered the A.J. Pappanikou Center in Farmington, Sharon Dexler suggested the conference room at 999 Asylum Avenue in Hartford, Tesha Imperati suggested the Office of Protection and Advocacy on Weston Street in Hartford. **Vote:** Motion to hold the next three meetings (December 2010, January 2011 and February 2011) at the A.J. Pappanikou Center in Farmington: Kathryn Reddington. Seconded by: Kathleen Bradley. Motion passed unanimously. Monthly meeting format will continue and each regularly scheduled meeting will be three hours in length (10:00AM to 1:00PM), with time allotted for subcommittee meetings. One summer meeting will not be scheduled (August), with the possibility of canceling the July meeting if a quorum cannot be reached. Before discussing changes in the Bylaws regarding attendance requirements, Jennifer Carroll will meet with legislative liaison Rod O'Connor to discuss; she will also

discuss clarifying the Council's or the Co-chair's authority to "dismiss" members for nonparticipation if changes to the Bylaws are made. Minutes will list separately those members who were present, absent with an excuse or absent. Kathryn Reddington will submit the schedule of meeting dates for 2011 to the Secretary of the State's Office.

Subcommittees: Subcommittee agendas and minutes will be included in the monthly meeting agendas and minutes.

Process: Discussion regarding how to empower the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Council. This may include setting rules about where the Executive Committee can act and where an issue needs to be brought to the entire membership for a vote. These guidelines may be posted on the website after development in the coming months. Discussion will continue at December monthly meeting.

Co-chair vacancy: Vote: To fill the co-chair vacancy of Karyn Hlavac, Tesha Imperarti, Cathleen Adamszyk and Lisa Sheppard made a motion to nominate themselves to serve until the next annual meeting (September 2011). Seconded by: Kathryn Reddington. Paper ballots were prepared for the nine voting members. With five votes, Lisa Sheppard was announced as the new co-chair.

#### **General Business:**

Jennifer Carroll suggested that a letter to Governor-elect Malloy be drafted by Co-chair Robyn Trowbridge which would introduce the CT Family Support Council and offer members' expertise. Letter will also go to legislative leadership when they are chosen in January. Motion to draft letter which will include the CT FSC's whole charge to the Governor-elect and to indicate that an annual report will be made to the Governor and legislature in February made by: Kathleen Reddington. Seconded by: Cathleen Adamczyk. Motion carried with 0 abstaining.

Colleen Hayles announced the LP Guidelines are currently posted at the State Department of Education website. Also posted are results of the Parent Survey. Recommendations for changes to the Survey are being sought.

Kathleen Bradley distributed copies of the Department of Children and Families flyer "Support & Behavioral Health Services for Children, Adolescents and their Families," as well as copies of the DCF policies on Voluntary Services Program. She noted that services may not be comparably accessed or delivered throughout the area offices statewide; Jennifer Carroll suggested that this be on the legislative agenda for next session.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM

Recorded by: Sharon Dexler, Office of the Child Advocate, November 16, 2010