



**CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2016**

**Location:** Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
Hartford, CT

**In attendance:** Annika Burney, Laurie Cantwell, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Lisa Sheppard

**On Phone:** April Dipollina, Karen Hlavac,

**Absent:** Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez, Allison Quirion, Isabelina Rodriguez, Jody Santoro, Renee Toper, Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood

**Guests:** Wayne Camarro, Molly Cole (CT Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gretchen Knauff and Nancy Alisberg (Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities)

**Call to Order:** 10:10 am

**Public Comment:** None

Lisa Sheppard welcomed a number of guests including Wayne Camarro who is considering requesting appointment to the Council.

The majority of the meeting was focused on a presentation by Molly Cole, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. The presentation was titled: The 2020 Campaign: Closing Connecticut's Institutions. This was a follow-up to the discussion in the December meeting regarding the future of Southbury Training School and potential alternative uses. In addition to Molly, Gretchen Knauff and Nancy Alisberg, from the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, joined as guests representing OPA's involvement as a member of the 2020 Campaign.

Molly facilitated the discussion with assistance from and additional information being provided by Gretchen and Nancy. There was significant historical context given and data to support ways in which the current Southbury Training School and DDS Regional Center funding could be used for expanding community services to respond to long waiting lists for families with children struggling at home.

The request at the end of the presentation was whether the Council would be interested in joining the 2020 campaign. There was significant interest expressed in the discussion. Laurie Cantwell made a motion for the Connecticut Family Support Council to join the 2020 Campaign and it was seconded by April Dipollina and approved by members.

**Approval of December Minutes** – This was tabled until the February meeting.  
**Old Business**

**Annual Report** – State agency submissions were due as of the date of this meeting and family members were asked to submit their written pieces by the end of the January. It was agreed that there should be a section of the Annual Report written about the 2020 Campaign and its importance.

Annika Burney and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate was thanked for agreeing to pay for the cost of printing the Annual Report for 2016.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary with assistance from Dianne Gill, DDS