



Jodi M. Rell  
Governor

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## Minutes ~ January 10, 2008

### Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown – Chair, Karen Hlavac – Vice Chair, David Hadden, Lou Richards, Jennifer Carroll, Patti Silva, Kevin Morey

### DDS Staff:

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner  
Christine Pollio – Legislative & Executive Affairs Director  
Rod O'Connor – Legislative Liaison  
Ivette DeJesus – Executive Secretary

**Guest:** Jack Frost

Stuart Brown - Chair opened the meeting.

### Citizen Input:

None.

### Minutes:

November Council minutes were approved with minor changes.

### Guest:

Mr. Jack Frost attended the Council meeting as a guest. He has been serving on the South Region Advisory Council and was delighted to be with us. He has been recommended to the Governor's Office for appointment on the Council.

### **Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:**

Ed Mambruno is on vacation and will review this month's report at the next Council meeting.

### **Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:**

Christine introduced Mr. Rod O'Connor who has joined the department as the Legislative Liaison. Rod comes with a lot of legislative experience.

### **UPDATES:**

- Christine distributed the department's legislative package. OPM has approved our entire proposal with the exception of the respectful language bill. The next step is to schedule a meeting with the Public Committee at the end of January.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – is the start of the Session.
- The Council membership list was distributed and discussed.
- Christine and Rod will further research what constitutes a quorum and will report back.

- Update on serving on the Council: You can continue to serve when you're in-between terms and awaiting reappointment. Once you reach the 6 years maximum, you're done and have to take a break of 2 years (1 term). After the 2-year break you can be reappointed to the Council.
- A draft-edited version of the Council By-laws and related "Roberts Rules" were distributed and proposed changes were discussed. Christine, Rod, Jennifer and Patti will meet to discuss this further and will present a final draft to Council.

### **Commissioner's Updates by Deputy Commissioner du Pree:**

- Budget: we have presented our budget options to OPM and were approved to submit formal options for:
  - newly identified High school grads
  - newly identified Residential & Day age outs
  - an expansion of Voluntary Services from 30 new children to 70.
  - additional case managers and support staff which will serve newly eligible clients, individuals transferring to a waiver caseload and reduce the non waiver caseloads from 1:75 from 1:85.
- We were also asked for budget cuts for FY'08 & FY'09 to offset expansion request
- David Hadden brought up his concern about the lack of additional funding for private providers. Kathryn responded that the department recommended several increases, which were not accepted by OPM.
- The Aging Coordinator interviews were this week. Bob Wood was on the committee. The selected candidate will be announced soon.
- The Autism Pilot will increase by \$1 million in FY09 to serve more people in the greater Hartford area and to increase staff.
- DDS is working with DSS and OPM regarding a feasibility study for waiver services for persons with Autism. David asked if this would be funded from DDS' current budget. Kathryn replied that it would not but would require a separate and new appropriation. The event hosted to introduce the Autism Division in the New Haven area at the end of November 2007 was a great event and well attended.
- Case Management update: we recently held two networking days with case managers to discuss the many efficiencies we have put in place to address the workload concerns. Two national consultants came to speak who are very positive about the quality of our case management services. A significant change is that we are no longer requiring the semi-annual periodic review except in CTH's and ICFs-MR effective this January Families will be informed in the next Direct to Families. This will positively impact the work of case managers and provider staff. A family member can always request a meeting if needed. .
- The Direct to Families winter edition will be out in a few weeks. It will have information on the Case Managers' meeting
- Mr. Jack Frost commented that he just had his semi-annual meeting and that it was very useful as a parent.
- Mr. Lou Richards posed the question: is the Case Managers ratio the same throughout the state?
- Ms. Karen Hlavac wants to be apprised of the (ICF/MR Quarterly's) due to the medical needs, if they were to be lessened.

- FYI – there was a fire at Seaview Apartments in New London due to an electrical malfunction. Staff did an excellent job evacuating and there were no injuries. Everyone moved to Camp Harkness. The second floor was re-opened today.
- Update on the Pomphret CLA: That location is to remain open per Governor Rell. There are two plans being reviewed by DPW. Both options are approximately \$1 million dollars. One is to renovate the existing building and the other is to build a new accessible home at the same site. The department favors new construction and will be reviewing the options with the families involved.
- Ms. Hlavac posed the question: are we replacing Dr. McDonald? Are we recruiting? Kathryn responded that we are recruiting and she will have an update by the February meeting.
- Ms. Hlavac posed the question: Is it true that there will be a golden handshake? Response from Ms. du Pree: We don't know yet but there has not been any official communication about it.
- DDS has hired a new Dental Coordinator. Her name is Izabella Pulvemacher.
- Ms. Hlavac posed the question: How are we on the Uconn dental replacement of Dr. Ellen. Kathryn will find out.

### **Old Business:**

- Christine requested input as to how to proceed with the bylaws. A suggestion was put forth to create a committee to work on this. Chairman Brown recommended that the new officers make decision on this.

### **New Business:**

- Elections for Council occurred. Co-Chair Hlavac informed everyone as to the Nomination Committee's selection:
  - \* Chair – Patti Silva
  - \* Co-Chair – Jennifer Carroll
  - \* Secretary – Chavis Chappell

Motion to pass by Ms. Hlavac, Council member 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – Motion Passed!!! ~ Congratulations new officers!

- David Hadden distributed the article by Pat Johnson regarding provider funding. He asked the Council to place in the next agenda for discussion. He would like the Council to support a meaningful increase for the Private Sector for the biennium. Mr. Hadden also asked Council to support authorizing the Executive Committee to work on this issue further and take action as they see fit. Mr. Hadden made a motion for the Council to support this, motion passed by the Council.
- Mr. Morey brought up a topic that was discussed a few council meetings ago. Is the Council going to select 5 areas in which the Council will work as a whole to support? He also wanted to add that he has strong support for Dave's idea to support the provider funding initiative. Mr. Morey would like to discuss the In Home Respite Services at a future Council meeting.

- The North Region is holding it's Legislative Breakfast March 19<sup>th</sup>. The idea of possibly getting Provider support from the Advisory Committee for the Breakfast was discussed.
- Ms. Hlavac wanted to thank Stuart Brown for being a great Chair for the Council. Mr. Hadden, seconded that.



**\*\*The next meeting will be held on February 14th.\*\***

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 8:00 p.m.**