



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR



Minutes ~ February 8, 2007

Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown, Chair, Karen Hlavac – Vice Chair, Patti Silva – Secretary, David Hadden, Lou Richards, Jennifer Carroll, Robert Wood, Ed Walen, Chavis Chappell, Kevin Morey, Dorothy Mobilia, Peter H. O'Meara-Ex-Officio

DMR Staff:

Kathryn duPree – Deputy Commissioner
Christine Pollio – Legislative Liaison
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson

Minutes:

Two sets of minutes needed to be reviewed and voted on (December and January).

January minutes were accepted with the following corrections: Under old business, 2nd to the last sentence, Council meeting singular. Council reviewed and discussed, interject Public comment.

December minutes accepted with the following corrections: Put Lou in attendance. Page 2, above Commissioners updates, Commissioner plural without apostrophe.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno met twice on the dental coordinator position. Interviewed 2 candidates for this position. Will be meeting again soon. The committee discussed further what's expected of this position.

Mr. Mambruno attended the 2nd meeting for the Vehicle Advisory committee to standardize safety. He shared that standardized training will be conducted as a result of this committee.

Mr. Mambruno handled a few different issues, one was regarding a family that moved to Connecticut because they felt that DMR services were much better here than the state they previously resided.

Mr. Mambruno mediated an incident where a sibling of a consumer was not happy with the care of this individual. He took information, called the Director and found out the other side of the story. A compromise resolved the issue at hand.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

There is only one thing in packets regarding DMR bills.

The number of bills this year is tremendous. They passed 1st bill yesterday on Ethics regarding gifts, etc.

There are 4 bills out there for coverage of hearing aids for children. There was a public hearing on this Tuesday (2/7/07).

March 5th: Health & Hosp. Committee meeting.

The Council needs to think about and discuss if the name of the Council should change or not?

Ms. Pollio discussed the name change and how Mental Retardation will still be used in some of the language.

The budget is out but was unable to have provided copies for the meeting at this time. Ms. Pollio will have Ivette mail you copies.

Ms. Pollio clarified the budget that Commissioner shared is in the first part process and it's a long process. Changes will keep occurring to the budget before it is passed. The budget will most likely not look as it does now.

Ms. Pollio explained how to sign up to be heard at the budget hearing on the 23rd. The Health & Hospital sub-committee hearing is March 5th. There are specific time slots for Commissioners to testify and PM time slots for the public to testify.

Commissioner's Updates:

We will be having Charlan Corlies and John Tierney attend the March meeting who are involved in the new training module to do a presentation.

HARC received a strike notice for next Wednesday (2/14/07). They continue to negotiate; we hope they will come to an agreement.

Kathryn and Peter will continue to meet with 1199 regarding some of the issues discussed before with respect to case managers.

Birth to Three will be having their 10th Anniversary Celebration at the LOB on April 12, 2007 from 5-7 p.m. This date is a Council meeting day. I suggest having the meeting at the LOB so everyone can attend and have a short meeting following the event. The Council agreed to this.

Registry follows up: MJ wanted to follow up on a question raised at the last meeting. What is the number of agency's that have made referrals to the registry? There are a total of 244 employers listed and 67 have made referrals to date. Any questions, you may give MJ a call at (860) 418-6170. The new attorney, Pita Pyles, will focus on the registry.

Budget Highlights 2008-2009:

- Personnel Services – Public side (4,000 FT & 1100 PT). Six transferred from IT to DOIT and an influx of 5 Case Managers. The Dental Coordinator position is currently in process.

Operating Expenses:

DMR is trying to sort out the pluses and minuses.

- Low wage pool for providers.
- There will be more money available for software
- Access to consultant that will help in some of the concerns CM's have.
- Increase in property leases
- Waiting list fully funded for 150 placements each year. 100 for Enhanced family support.
- Kathryn working on progress of WL this week
- Other placements: Age-outs for Residential and Days, H.S. grads have half of what is projected for our needs.
- Birth to Three: very positive restoration of all of the eligibility criteria that was changed years ago (speech, hearing, birth weight) is all restored. There are dollars associated with each of those.
- No COLA in the budget for remaining provider's.
- No dollars or expansion for the Autism pilot.
- Limits placed on Voluntary Service Programs
- Bonding: As of last bond commission meeting, we've exhausted all of our money. Public Facilities - \$5 million each year, Capital Equipment – \$3 ½ million, Workers Comp – \$2.1 million

Will share budget and testimony with Council once it is available.

Old Business:

Karen inquired, if there is any more news on the Meriden campus property?

The desire by City of Meriden is to evict us and build something else. There have been a couple of meetings with legislators regarding this.

Citizen input guidelines needed to be reviewed. It was put on hold in the last meeting due to not enough in attendance to vote. The guidelines were reviewed and voted on. Ivette will be asked to post on the DMR website in the area where the Council calendar is posted.

COLA Initiative: Pat Johnson continues to advocate for COLA across the board with legislature. He would like to thank the council for their support and continued support.

Stuart circulated a letter that he and Dave put together for the Councils review in support of the COLA.

Stuart welcomed the new Council members and had everyone introduce themselves.

New Business:

Patti shared information on the hearing aid bill #166. Insurance covers up to \$1000 but not always the full amount. Bill 166 increases the amount to \$2500/per ear per 3 years until the age of 18. Patti is asking for Council to advocate for passage of this bill. Motion to pass “Council Support of Bill 166” passed unanimously.

Nominations for Council President, Vice President and Secretary. Motion passed as follows: Stuart Brown - President, Karen Hlavac – Vice President, Patti Silva – Secretary

The Commissioner nomination hearing is on February 15th. Stuart plans to be there. Christine handed out agenda.

Motion passed: Council will support re-nomination of Peter H. O’Meara as Commissioner. Chair to present support on behalf of Council.

****The next meeting will be held on March 8th.****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 9:00 p.m.