



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR



Minutes ~ March 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, Michael O'Toole, Peter H. O'Meara-Ex-Officio

DMR Staff:

Christine Pollio – Legislative Liaison
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson
Cpt. Mike Woodson
Ivette DeJesus

Minutes:

Minutes for February were approved unanimously with a change. Change in 3rd paragraph in Ombudsperson report.

E-Learning Presentation by Charlan Corlies and John Tierney:

- There will be a pilot operation to test the E-Learning system.
- Mr. Wood and Karen are very interested in trying out the E-Learning hands on when it becomes available on-line.
- Pilot form available April or May, should be completely ready by July.
- Grade level geared for grades 7th and 8th.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno discussed long-standing issue regarding respite program in regards to a provider license. The provider didn't know they had to do paperwork to provide respite.

Mr. Mambruno received a call from a last year student at Yale Public Health. She wondered what the Ombudsperson did for DMR. Mr. Mambruno answered all her questions and she provided him with the final report, which was very comprehensive.

A family who was facing eviction contacted Mr. Mambruno. Mr. Mambruno contacted the region for follow up and assistance.

Mr. Mambruno met with the Vehicle Advisory Committee. Committee waiting on surveys from the three regions.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

- Ms. Pollio provided copies of the different bills to the Council.

- The testimony for the Autism waiver is on Tuesday, 3/13.
- On Wednesday, March 14, the following bills will be discussed: Birth to Three, Name Change, and a few more items and several bills on Lead exposure.
- There will be a meeting with the Meriden Delegation regarding the Meriden Campus on Tuesday, 3/13.
- Commissioner's nomination got passed yesterday effective today.
- This is the first week where some of the bills started making it through. The testimony of Bill 1096 – establishment of the Fatality Review Board has been submitted. The language was reviewed to make sure it is consistent.
- The Oral health care bill offering favorable language will come up tomorrow, will find out more about that.
- Hearing Aid legislation: one bill moved in which it had age increase but not the coverage amount.
- Mr. Brown questioned Ms. Pollio on the Council supporting hearing aid bill, who shall it be mailed to and Ms. Pollio suggested to send it to everyone in Appropriations, if not everyone then do the minimum; chairs, co-chairs, and ranking members and Dept. of Insurance co-chairs.

Commissioner's Updates:

- Commissioner O'Meara thanked the Council for their support, confidence and efforts. Everyone on the Council is doing a great job, thank you all! You are a great addition to the department and the people we serve.
- It is great to see the hard work you put in, for example, I saw Jennifer this morning at the Breakfast program and here this evening. Stuart and Dave working on the letters of support.
- The Birth to Three restoration of eligibility is looking good.
- The need for COLA is getting people's attention and there is a great deal of support.
- There was a discussion with legislators at the Breakfast program this morning in regards to the dollars available versus people it can serve, especially regarding high school grads.
- As Bob Wood mentioned earlier, hopefully it won't be June before we have a budget in place so we can start resolving issues and give families comfort as to what they can get.
- Tammy Garris, Life Span Coordinator for DMR will be invited to the May or June meeting.
- Commissioner discussed the Brown Family tragedy and thanked Mr. O'Toole for opening with a moment of silence.
- DMR will be putting a letter together to share with Private Providers; will send to Council next week.
- Mr. Wood discussed Mr. Brown and their circumstances. He discussed the concerns aging parents with aging children have as he and Mr. Brown have. Mr. Wood shared how Mr. Brown was a planner but was getting very concerned about his own health and his children as they got older.

Old Business:

Patti Silva discussed letter to support hearing aid for children. This is to go out within the next two weeks. Patti and Stuart will work together to get it out.

New Business:

Patti Silva wanted to express her sympathy for the Brown Family. Ms. Silva thanked everyone on the Council who has been fighting for many years for the rights of people with disabilities.

****The next meeting will be held on April 12th .****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 8:20 p.m.