



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

COUNCIL ON MENTAL RETARDATION



Minutes ~ July 12, 2007

Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown – Chair, Karen Hlavac – Vice Chair, Robert Wood, Ed Walen, Chavis Chappell, Dorothy Mobilia, Kevin Morey, Peter H. O’Meara-Ex-Officio

DMR Staff:

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson
Christine Pollio – Legislative Liaison
Michael Woodson - Investigations
Ivette DeJesus – Exec. Secretary

Stuart Brown - Chair opened the meeting.

Citizen Input:

None.

Minutes:

June minutes approved with changes.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno informed the Council of the following:

- He opened up his updates by thanking CIB-Oakhill for their support to the Governor’s Coalition for Youth with Disabilities conference.
- Worked on the July Direct to Families article.
- Shared that a definitive date has been set for interviewing candidates for the DMR dental coordinator position.
- Worked with the Waiver Unit DSS liaison to assist a mother with obtaining Title 19 for her child (eligibility).
- Completing the 2006 Annual Report to the General Assembly.
- Worked with region on a very difficult issue regarding a DCF policy concerning subsidized adoption.
- Advocated for a different placement for an individual. The individual was placed in a setting more suitable to his/her needs with DMR’s assistance.
- Continues to work on updating the web site.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

Ms. Pollio informed the Council of the following:

- The budget report was mailed out about a week ago.
- Saturday, June 22nd – Bills were passed.
- The bonding & transportation issues package will be taken up during the veto session 7/23/07 & 7/24/07.
- Funding was put back for the full 250 high school grads (Day & Residential ageouts). Thanks to the Council & families for advocating.
- A total of 10 new case managers were approved
- A 3% raise approved for Private Providers COLA.
- Autism update: Decision was made to start a division within DMR starting in FY'08, no dollars attached to initiative. DMR in conjunction with DSS to do feasibility study, a consultant to be hired. A report is to in February 2009 to legislation. Monies to hire personnel will be in FY'09. The concentration will be in the New Haven area and will eventually expand throughout the state.
- Name Change Update: Joan Barnish, Christine Pollio and Committee met today on changes that need to occur. Joan had the idea of letting people submit logo ideas that was due last week. There are about 54 to review.
- Working on some big legislative updates. Waiting on some bill names.
- Legislators go in last week of February next year.
- Final DMR budget for FY'08 - \$926 million

Commissioner's Updates:

The budget looks very strong and we should be able to serve all the people projected to need services. It also helps build infrastructure development.

COLA – will have to focus during the mid term as providers are quite concerned about this since there is no proposed COLA adjustment in FY09.

There is a commitment from the Legislators, Governor, and citizens of the state with the budget that was approved.

There is definitely an aging issue for our consumers. Commissioner O'Meara, Deputy du Pree, and Senior staff agreed to hire an Aging Services Coordinator. . The Aging Task Force meeting was moved up to August, update will be provided to Council in the September meeting.

There will be some departmental enhancements and reorganization .It will be finalized and shared at the September council meeting.

The fatality review board report has been distributed for your reading. The Mortality Review Report will be done and distributed at the September meeting. The one positive thing in the mortality report is that rates are stable. A plan of correction will be done and distributed in September as well.

Mr. Walen questioned the Commissioner on the dental fellowship program. Christine is working on it and we hope to resolve by September.

Commissioner O'Meara spoke to Mr. Mambruno regarding him working on visiting our clients in nursing homes.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Chairperson Brown asked the council members to think of what they would like to concentrate on and support for this upcoming legislative session for discuss in September.

****The next meeting will be held on September 18th.****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 7:35 p.m.