



Jodi M. Rell
Governor

Minutes ~ November 8, 2007

Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown – Chair, Karen Hlavac – Vice Chair, David Hadden, Lou Richards, Jennifer Carroll, Robert Wood, Ed Walen, Chavis Chappell

DMR Staff:

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson
Christine Pollio – Legislative Liaison

Stuart Brown - Chair opened the meeting.

Citizen Input:

None.

Minutes:

Council minutes approved with changes.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno informed the Council of the following updates:

- Spoke with a family who decided they would make Connecticut their permanent residence. They have a son/daughter with a dual diagnosis who lives in a New York facility that specializes in this diagnosis. Since the family now resides permanently in Connecticut they want to explore options to move him here. Ed discussed the options, eligibility and most importantly the waiting list that he would have to be placed on in addition to making Connecticut his permanent residence.
- Mom wants to move daughter from one day program to another. Her guardian status is at issue so she was asked to have her daughter call.
- Newly court-appointed guardian called to ask how she could obtain services for an individual who showed signs of mental retardation. After follow up it was determined that the paperwork for SSDI had been started years ago but never completed. Ed informed the guardian of the eligibility process.
- Advocate for a family called to discuss how services could be expedited for individual who is eligible for services but on the waiting list. Ed recommended that the family work with the case manager.
- Spoke with individual who was upset that a halfway house or group home was going to be developed in his neighbor. He was upset that an additional \$100,000 was being spent on that home and that after calling the private providers several times no one was returning his calls. After speaking with him for a while and noting that he had

checked out the DDS web site and FAQ's he was reassured that at least it wasn't going to be a halfway house.

SNF meetings:

- Met with Dave Carlow to identify the SNFs that met criteria to visit consumers.
- Met with Deputy Commissioner du Pree and Regional Directors to discuss the Ombudsperson's new responsibility to visit consumers living in nursing homes and how the information gathered from these visits would be communicated to the regions.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

Ms. Pollio informed the Council of the following updates:

- Submitted legislative package.
- Discussed non-budgetary items that were submitted to OPM – Reminder, this is not official until approved by OPM.
 - Name of Council to change to reflect new department name
 - Co-Guardianship rights
 - Peer Review proceedings for IMRB. This will make it consistent with other peer review processes in statute.
 - Working on Respectful language bill
 - Clarification on criminal penalties for Supervisor/Client relationships
 - Technical change for Camp Harkness Advisory Board – The Southeastern Connecticut Association for the Retarded changed its name in 2006 to Southeastern Connecticut Advocates for Developmental Disabilities, now known as SECADD. We are looking to add one additional self advocate coordinator so that Central Office will have one position.
- Working on DDS being able to receive information from DCF for VSP purposes. Thanks to Kathryn for coordinating this meeting.
- Council appointment information/updates. A few people's terms have expired. Issues discussed included what break is required after completing 6 years (3 consecutive terms). Christine will confirm whether it is 1 or 2 years. Also, members can continue to serve until reappointed within their 6 years. The department is currently looking to recruit a doctor for the council. There are 2 recommendations. We currently need to fill the vacancies for: Mr. Wood, Mr. Walen, Mr. O'Toole, Dr. Keenan, and D. Mobilia.
- Bylaws discussed. Christine to incorporate changes for next meeting.

Commissioner's Updates by Deputy Commissioner du Pree:

- Discussed budgetary requests to OPM.
- Some of the requests to OPM:
 - I.T. improvements
 - Increase of case managers
 - Private sector budgetary issues
- Tony Records & Gary Smith who have been working with us on WL initiatives have just submitted their annual report to DDS They are very complimentary of case management services. DDS will follow up on the individual cases noted regarding the frequency of case management monitoring as a result of the person's medical conditions.

- You all have been invited to the reception for the Autism Spectrum Division on November 28th at the Quinnipiak Club in New Haven.
- West Region Regional Director interviews have been completed. The recommendations have been submitted to Peter and Kathryn for review. Fritz Gorst is the Acting Director for now.
- There has been some news in the papers that you may have read about already regarding great concern for a small home to be closed in the Northeast part of the state. It has been in poor condition, not accessible and has safety and environmental issues. There are a few senators and legislators inquiring and concerned about this. Lou Richards expressed concern about the closure of the home in terms of reducing public residential services capacity.

Old Business:

- Karen expressed concern about Dr. Ellen's plan to retire. Karen emailed Dave Carlow that Doctor Napo, dentist in Woodbridge is also scheduled to retire. Karen posed the question, what are the plans to replace these two dentists? Kathryn responded that the jobs will be posted for refilling.
- Jennifer spoke to Dr. Skammel @ UCP Dental Services on Long Island. They are about to open their state of the art building and the Council is invited to the grand opening. He also informed Jennifer that he is willing to donate equipment and assist in getting it here. Jennifer will send Dave Carlow contact information.

New Business:

- Bylaws discussed, changes noted. Christine will make changes and present at the next Council meeting.
- 2008 calendar discussed and a couple changes made.

****The next meeting will be held on December 13th.****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 9:05 p.m.