



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

COUNCIL ON MENTAL RETARDATION



Minutes ~ May 10, 2007

Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown – Chair, Karen Hlavac – Vice Chair, Patti Silva – Secretary, Lou Richards, Robert Wood, Jennifer Carroll, 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
Ivette DeJesus
Tammy Garris – Guest Speaker

Stuart Brown - Chair opened the meeting. Meeting was started by the Council having their picture taken by L. Conchado from the Communications Department.

Citizen Input:

None.

Minutes:

Minutes for April were approved unanimously with a few changes. Under Citizen Input, the name should be Kathy Wheatley. The 2nd page, 6th bullet change mean to means. Under Old Business change to are on the web.

Tammy Garris – Life Span Coordinator:

- Ms. Garris has brought back the Aging Focus Team.
- Ms. Garris provided the Council with the Aging Focus Team Meeting notes.
- The Aging Team five-year plan was also shared with the Council.
- Ms. Garris shared that each region has a regional liaison that Tammy can get in touch with so this will help have continuity throughout the state.
- The Aging Team plans on meeting late spring or early summer and then again on October 4th.
- Mr. Wood requested specific information of Ms. Garris.
- Mr. O’Toole shared with Ms. Garris to please keep in mind location of these facilities for the elderly as the Aging Team starts making decisions or suggestions.
- Mr. O’Toole questioned are there other states doing this that we can emulate instead of reinventing the wheel. Ms. Garris responded, yes, i.e. Arizona and Ohio. She plans on attending a few conferences to retrieve information that may help this committee.
- Ms. Hlavac asked if there is any preventative medical care, screening being done? Ms. Garris responded yes, Dr. Kerins attends the Aging Team meetings and he’s extremely helpful with this.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno shared that since the mailing of letters regarding the High School budget problem he's been bombarded with calls.

Mr. Mambruno has been receiving many inquiries regarding people moving or wanting to move to Connecticut due to the services and programs available to people with MR. What he has come across is that people think if they received services in their state that they automatically receive them here.

Mr. Mambruno came across a case where a mother hired an attorney due to a Private Provider verbally agreeing to provide certain services, when it came to putting it on paper it was not what was told to this mother so now she wants to sue. Mr. Mambruno had to discuss this case with the legal department.

Mr. Mambruno came across an issue involving Medicaid waiver and certain supports that private providers needed to change or eliminate. Mr. Mambruno met with the Operations Department who planned on holding a meeting with family to answer their questions.

Mr. Mambruno received 3 anonymous calls. Mr. Mambruno met with Inspectors who performed unannounced visits. They substantiated these claims and he directed them to appropriate regions and/or individuals.

Mr. Mambruno will continue to meet with the Vehicle Advisory Committee. Per Ms. Pollio, the bill is moving along.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

The budget negotiations have started, nothing specific has come out yet.

The High School grad letter went out explaining budget for age outs. A process was designed to decide who could get the funding. Calls have been placed to legislators, which in turn end up being a call to Ms. Pollio. Ms. Pollio has had to explain process. Message is out there that funding is needed for this issue.

Autism Bill is still being worked on.

A lot of bills have moved to the foot of the calendar.

Hearing Aid bill passed April 23rd by the Senate back on House calendar (only increase in age).

Bill 1407 (Kids in school until age 21) – Bill itself died but part of it may end up on an education bill.

Jennifer drafted a letter (letter shared with Council). Jennifer will email it to Ivette with changes and Ivette will get it out to the Council via email.

Mr. O'Toole was concerned with the direction in which this department is heading. He is concerned about the word Autism discussed and brought up so often. As a Council we need to watch more carefully.

Commissioner's Updates:

Commissioner would like to remind everyone that some of the people with Autism also have MR.

Commissioner wanted to inform everyone that Tammy and Marcia had a huge gap between one retiring and the other one picking up. Tammy also is responsible for children. We will need to provide additional positions to work on both aging and children issues.

Meriden Campus – Continue to be ever watchful, watching the budget.

High School grads status – Receiving a lot of phone calls on this issue.

Council information is on the web now. Minutes will be put on as well and the minutes will be mailed to old members.

Old Business:

Dental Issue – UConn waiting list 3 to 4 months. Dr. Tannebaum plans to retire and he was a great provider to our clients.

Email Council members updated list of members.

New Business:

Patti suggested that letters that the Council puts together in regards to anything be posted on the web as well.

Flyer shared from Smith Middle School in Glastonbury regarding the Pilot Program on Safe Boundaries for H.S. students with Intellectual Disabilities.

Chavis' birthday is on the next Council date – June 14th. (likes chocolate cake)

****The next meeting will be held on June 14th.****

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