

The 154th meeting of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at the Institute of Technology and Business Development/Central Connecticut State University, New Britain.

Council Members Present: Cathy Adamczyk, Chair; Joyce Baker; Stephen Belske; Larry Carlson; Jousette Caro; Patricia Carrin; Sheila Crocker; Mary Eberle; John Flanders; Gabriela Freyre-Calish; Paul Kachevsky; Bill Knight; Armand Legault, Vice Chair; Jennifer Lortie; Tom McCann; Peter Morrissette; Frank Reed; Nancy Taylor; Anita Tremarche; and Patricia Tyler.

Absent: Kathryn duPree and Leo Germain.

Excused Absence: Patricia Anderson; Lisa Davis; Fred Frank and Jamie Graham.

Guests Present: Melissa Pinnick, Service Employees International Union; four (4) personal assistants and one (1) meeting assistant.

Staff Present: Mary-Ann Langton, Ed Preneta and Angela Spino

Welcome Retiring and New Council Members

Ms. Adamczyk opened the meeting at 11:08 a.m. and welcomed retiring Council member Jousette Caro. She thanked Ms. Caro as well as all other retired and retiring Council members. Ms. Adamczyk shared a letter from retiring Council member Chad Sinanian. She welcomed newly appointed members Stephen Belske, Paul Kachevsky, Bill Knight and Frank Reed and reported on several other people whose appointments are pending. Ms. Adamczyk asked all Council members to introduce themselves.

Minutes

Ms. Adamczyk asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2008.

Ms. Taylor moved for acceptance of the minutes. Mr. Legault seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

2008 and 2009 Budget Update

2008

Mr. Preneta reported that there was nothing more to report on the budget report distributed with the agenda other than that a few more bills were paid. The Council carried over about \$56,100 of 2008 funds for use in 2009. Income included \$17,325 of registration income for the Council's Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) Conference and \$2,994 in used funds turned back to the Council by the Disability Advocacy Collaborative 2008 Convention.

2009

Mr. Preneta reported that the Council's draft 2009 budget was planned with an intentional deficit of about \$61,100 but that deficit is now down to about \$5,100, which is a reasonable risk. The President and Congress have not agreed on a 2009 budget. The Council's budget is frozen at its 2008 level until March 6, 2009. It is expected the Council's budget will remain frozen at the 2008 level throughout 2009 and beyond.

Council members raised questions regarding the dire predictions about the state budget.

Mr. Preneta said the Council does not receive state funds and is affected by state budget deficits mostly indirectly by state fiscal policies and directives. He said a direct effect may be an early retirement incentive program, which may require him to retire before his announced March 31, 2011 retirement date.

Ms. Adamczyk thanked Mr. Preneta for his report.

Transition Committee

Mr. Legault said he was planning the first Transition Committee meeting. The Transition Committee is Mr. Legault, Ms. duPree, Ms. Tremarche and Mr. Reed. The Committee will review the Director's job description and recommend changes to the state human resource system. The Committee will explore many other transition issues to put on the Council's May 2009 Retreat agenda for discussion and decision, unless and

early retirement incentive program requires the Council to make decisions sooner.

Advocacy, Public Information and Education Committee

Ms. Taylor reported that Able Lives Toolkits on Inclusive Education and Community Inclusion are still in the works. The Community Inclusion Toolkit will address housing and transportation among other issues. The task force working on this Toolkit include Ms. Baker, Ms. Carrin, Mr. Germain, Mr. Legault and Ms. Lortie. This task force plans to meet on November 28, 2008.

Mr. Morrissette said he would like to participate on the Community Inclusion Task Force.

Ms. Taylor asked Ms. Carrin for a report on the Inclusive Education Toolkit. Ms. Carrin reported that she and Ms. Spino expect to have all written and video material completed by the end of the month.

Ms. Taylor reported that Ms. Carrin is also involved in planning a “Day of Respect” to take place at the Hartford Seminary on March 16, 2009. This event will focus on faith communities. A DD Network Forum on “respectful language” will be held on March 18, 2009.

Ms. Eberle suggested that churches, mosques and temples be encouraged to use Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, 2009 to invite members of their congregations to serve as ushers, chalice bearers, and other roles, that highlight the presence and participation of people with disabilities and their families in congregations.

Ms. Lortie volunteered to serve on this planning committee.

Ms. Taylor reported that the Committee was exploring creating a booklet on specific state services and supports and how they really work. The Department of Developmental Services may have model booklets.

Ms. Taylor reported that Committee members interested in robotics will be meeting with Trinity College to discuss increasing communication and public information about the interactive robotics competition.

Finally, Ms. Taylor said the Committee will be working on the Council's 2008 Annual Report.

Ms. Adamczyk thanked Ms. Taylor for her report.

Legislation, Policy and Planning Committee

Mr. Flanders reported that his Committee intends to continue to provide comments on regulations on restraints and seclusion legislation. Regulations are working their way to the Regulations Review Committee.

With the opening of the Connecticut General Assembly in January 2009, the Committee is preparing to respond to proposed bills. The Committee plans to meet in early December.

Ms. Adamczyk thanked Mr. Flanders for his report.

Memberships and Support Committee

Mr. McCann said newly appointed members have already been introduced and that there are still 2 reappointments and 3 new appointments to be made by the Governor's Office.

Ms. Adamczyk thanked Mr. McCann for his report.

Aging In Place In The Community

During lunch, the Council watched the video "Aging In Place In The Community", funded by the Council and produced by Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) for the Council's "Aging In Place In The Community Symposium." The video was broadcast by CPTV on November 2, 2008 as a "Local Lens" feature.

Also during lunch, Ms. Adamczyk read a letter thanking Council members from youth with disabilities who participated in the Council funded "Youth in ADAPT" with the Disability Resource Network. She also read a letter from Ms. Baker emphatically stating the Council should only support training of personal assistants that is directed by the people who are using personal assistants.

2009 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Eberle moved to adopt the 2009 meeting schedule distributed with the Council's meeting agenda. Mr. Knight seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Assignments

Ms. Adamczyk asked newly appointed Council members to volunteer to serve on one, but not more than 2, Council standing committees. Council members were also encouraged to volunteer for ad hoc task forces.

Mr. Belske joined the Advocacy, Public Information and Education Committee and the Legislation, Policy and Planning Committee. Mr. Knight also joined the Legislation, Policy and Planning Committee. Mr. Reed volunteered for the Transition Committee and the Legislation, Policy and Planning Committee.

Discussion re Status of 2009 Initiatives in Light of National and State Economy

Mr. Preneta reported that some Council members and members of the public have noted that new Council initiatives for 2009 have not been announced or are slowly rolling out. He said that there are multiple reasons for the slow down. Part of the reason is that the Council is trying to do too much with too few people. An inordinate amount of time on the part of both Council members and staff is being spent on the Able Lives Toolkits. New, important but unplanned initiatives are arising out of existing Council initiatives, such as a proposal that the Council host a statewide conference with aging-in-place communities from Boston and Washington, DC, and a large youth gathering in the fall of 2009. The Council did not plan or set aside funds for either event. A request for funding for the youth event is likely to be on the Council's January 13, 2009 agenda. With dire reports about the state budget, and expected state funding cuts, the Council is in an enviable position as a state agency with funds that could be used to leverage new initiatives. At the same time, the Council's budget is frozen at the 2008 level of funding until March 6, 2009 and, technically, funds have not yet been released to the states. It is also expected that the Council's budget will not increase in 2009. As a result of all this, Mr. Preneta said that 2009 initiatives are being implemented in a rational order that begins with

carrying out to completion initiatives that the Council has been working on for the last few years, followed by initiatives that require the least amount of funding. Larger, new initiatives will be the last to be implemented.

Other New Business

Ms. Tyler proposed that the Council do a better job of enabling more time and discussion of Council business. She was particularly concerned that the views of some Council members may be overlooked or overrun by the Council's process. After considerable discussion, Ms. Adamczyk said that the January 13, 2009 Council meeting will be used to explore different ways to draw out the opinions of all Council members.

Ms. Eberle moved to adjourn. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Institute of Technology and Business Development/CCSU, New Britain. The public will be invited to present comments on the Council's current initiatives and proposals for new initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Preneta