

**Minutes of the Children's Trust Fund  
Full Council Meeting  
25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT  
December 15, 2009  
4:30 – 6:00 PM**

Reminders:

**Next Executive Committee meeting: Jan 19**

**Next full Council meeting: Feb 16**

Members and CTF Staff Present: Laura Amenta, Karen Foley-Schain, Shannon Wegele

Absent: Rudy Brooks, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, GERALYN KOGUT, Carolyn Signorelli, Paul Dworkin, Paul Flinter, Donna Grant, Joan Parris, Bonnie Stewart, Flo Woodiel

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action
<p>Deficit Mitigation Proposal and Budget Rescission Plan</p>	<p>Under Governor Rell's proposal, the Trust Fund's \$13.5 million state budget would be virtually eliminated, leaving just \$1.4 million in funding for the next six months of the fiscal year – a more severe reduction than almost all other departments in the state.</p> <p>The Council has taken the lead in responding to the proposal and coordinating legislative advocacy across the state. Friends, providers, researchers and experts in child abuse prevention are advocating on behalf of the Trust Fund urging legislators to preserve our budget. Over 30 individuals testified on December 8 at the state capitol. The Hartford Courant ran Op-Ed pieces by Dr Dworkin and Dr Leventhal on Sunday, December 13 and the Middletown press ran an editorial on December 11 by Christine O'Grady, a home visitor from Middletown.</p> <p>The Governor convened a special session for today, December 15. Legislators are not expected to proceed with Rell's recommended cuts, instead they hope to come up with their own plan to deal with the budget deficit and anticipate that it will pass by Christmas.</p>
<p>Meeting with DSS Commissioner about the Council</p>	<p>Laura Amenta met with Commissioner Starkowski and Karen Foley Schain on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Also in attendance were Claudette Beaulieu (Deputy Commissioner), Walter Gaffney (Chief of Staff), Frances Freer (Regional Administrator -Western Region), David Dearborn (Communications),</p>

Brenda Parrella (Office of Legal Counsel), Carolyn Treiss (Compliance), Darleen Klase (Organization Skill Development).

Laura shared highlights from the meeting including the common goal to create a long and productive working relationship between DSS and the Council.

The statute provides that DSS “with the guidance” of the Council is “responsible for implementing and maintaining programs.”

We discussed the impact of the mandated five percent gubernatorial rescission on Trust Fund programs. Those in attendance recommended that the Council advise Commissioner Starkowski to use private funds raised by the Council to supplant the loss of Trust Fund money from the Governor's mandate. Additionally a recommendation was made to find ways to offer additional savings that would not lead to discontinuation of services or further staff reductions.

**Call to Order: 4:43 pm**  
**Adjournment: 6:05 pm**