

## ***Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (CBHAC)***

Thirty one appointed members  
(Fifty-one percent to be parents)  
Twenty-seven appointments filled, currently three vacancies  
Statewide Advisory Council appointments currently two vacancies  
Legislative appointments currently one vacancy  
(Maj. Leader of the House Appt. Christopher Donovan)

### ***Appointments. By State Advisory Council:***

**Co-Chair: Dave Tompkins** (01/06/06-01/06/09), **Lolli Ross and Marie Capiris** (02/04/05-02/04/09),  
**Grace Nelson** (10/07/05-10/07/09), **Sincilina Beckett, Patricia Gaylord, Darcy Lowell, Norma Irving, Neil Quatrano,**  
**Tabor Napiello and Debbie McCusker** (09/06/07 – 09/06/09) **Karen Smith, Vicedomini M. Doriana** (02/28/2008 -  
02/28/2010)

### ***Governor's Appointments:***

Parent-**Cathy Adamczyk** (01/23/06-06/30/10), Provider-**Cara Westcott** (08/11/05-11/03/06)

### ***Legislative Appointments:***

Pres. Pro Tempore Appt. Donald Williams - **Margaret (Peggy) Ayer** (08/15/05-08/15/09), Speaker of the House Appt. James  
Amann-**John McGann** (12/14/05-06/30/08), Maj. Leader of the Senate Appt. Martin Looney-**Chet Brodnicki** (08/09/05 –  
08/09/09), Min. Leader of the Senate Appt. Louis Deluca-**Marcy Kane** (04/07/05-06/30/08), Min. Leader of the House Robert  
Ward-**Kimble Greene** (06/07/06-Term does not expire)

### ***State Department Commissioner Designees:***

Department of Children and Families - **Tim Marshall**, Department of Social Services - **Tim Bowles**,  
Department of Education - **Scott Newgass**, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - **Nikki Richer**,  
Department of Developmental Services-**Mona Tremblay**

Court Support Services, Chief Court Administrator Designee - **Cathy Foley Geib**

Office of Protection and Advocacy, Executive Director Designee - **Rachel Sherman**

---

## **Meeting Minutes from April 04, 2008**

### **Appointed Members in Attendance:**

Margaret (Peggy) Ayer, Tim Bowles, Tammy Garris, Patricia Gaylord, Kimble Greene, Norma Irving, Marcy Kane, Darcy Lowell, Tim Marshall, Debbie McCusker, John McGann, Tabor Napiello, Grace Nelson, Neil Quatrano, Nikki Richer, Rachel Sherman, Karen Smith, Dave Tompkins, Doriana M. Vicedomini, and Cara Westcott, Scott Newgass

### **Excused Appointed Members:**

Sincilina Beckett, Cathy Foley-Geib, Mona Tremblay, Cathy Adamczyk, Chet Brodnicki, Marie Capiris

### **Unexcused Appointed Members:**

### **Members of the Public in Attendance:**

George McDonald, Leslie Martinez, Hal Gibber, Doreen Marshall, Lorna Grivois, Becki Jackson, Debra Gannon, C. Willey, Tim Cunningham, Josh Howroyd, Mary Martinez, Ginny Gerena, Laura Hadder, Mary Held, L. Spells

### **Mission:**

The mission of CBHAC is to promote and enhance the provision of behavioral health services for all children in the State of Connecticut.

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

***The Meeting was called to order by Co-chair, Dave Tompkins***

**Approval of Minutes:**

March minutes were voted on and approved on December 07, 2007.

**Co-chairs report:**

***Dave Tompkins:***

Two recommendations from last month were that we would meet with the DCF Commissioner and contact the co-chairs from the human resources committee. Kimble and I met with the DCF Commissioner a couple of weeks ago. We had an hour meeting with the Commissioner, Karl Kemper, Peter Mendelson, Bert Plant, Tim Marshall, and Josh Howroyd. The outcome of that meeting, we did not get any concrete actions. Everyone was hoping and thinking that of course would SAC would embrace us and bring us in as a body to support them and help them. Even though the language doesn't say that or specify that. There was other recommended language changes that Josh Howard was going to take a look at and was going to update us here. I printed out this morning this bill and it looks like the same language that we had at the last months meeting was in there. The piece that was added was a committee would be formed by State Advisory Council to take care of the responsibilities of the Mental Health Block Grant. That was the only language that was added when I went through the process. I did not see any other changes other than that.

***Kimble Greene:***

Does everyone understand what the shift means? Does anyone have any questions about what that means for us as a group and the new entity?

Basically what has happened among many issues the state has decided that there are too many committees like ours that are doing too many things and not enough people to answer to and enough is getting accomplished. They want to minimize the number of committees are out there. They decided that this bill recommends that the SAC take on our current responsible and monitoring the Mental Health Block Grant and that the SAC assign a new committee to do the duties that we are doing with the Mental Health Block Grant. Our committee the CBHAC and everything else that we are doing will go away essentially. It will be up to the SAC and the SAC co-chairs to decide who is going to comprise that new committee. They have the option to invite us, some of us, none of us, all of us, one of us or not, that will up to them. This all takes place July 1<sup>st</sup> if the bill passes. Technically we will remain in tacked through June.

***Cara Westcott:***

And this bill replaces the bill that created CBHAC, legislatively?

***Answer:*** Yes

***George McDonald:***

I have been here 4 or 5 years and I'm just really getting adjusted and understanding what this whole piece is about. Just started maybe a year and half contributing, it has been a long, long process being in the table and coming to the table and trying to understand. Where are all this stuff that we are trying to get accomplished and all these things that we are trying to put in the table, where is it going?

***Kimble Greene:***

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

Dave and I have a couple of suggestions because we agree. This suddenness us on many levels, one being that we have gotten many family members involved in the last year especially. There is so much energy and input from all of the people in the community. It would be unfortunate to see all that work to go by the way side. There are two things that we are going to put on the table as an option for people to way in if they think that it helps. We believe that all individual input like yours will probably be going to have the strongest influence if any on this ship. On Monday, this coming Monday, SAC has invited CBHAC to attend their meeting. It is held at Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents (CAFAP) in Rocky Hill from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. If we can get as many people as possible to attend that meeting.

***Dave Tompkins:***

I invited Irving Jennings to attend this meeting and he was unavailable. What he did say is that we could have an agenda on for the next SAC meeting for Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. He didn't say we are inviting all of CBHAC to show up. Irving said that that there would be an Agenda item. The state advisory council meeting is a public meeting and anyone can attend. Our encouragement is that any who can who is willing and wanting to attend should go there just to listen to what the agenda item is and if there is feedback and questions allowed I am not sure what their structure is, to be able to provide feedback and questions.

***Marcy Kane:***

George with all do respect, I think you and Kimble are very well educated on this issue. You will represent our committee very well by being there. I think that some of the members are not able to go because of the short notice; we definitely have faith in you guys to represent. It goes with out saying, as I look around at some of my peers in the room I see the same expression on their faces. This is a perfect example of the lack of coordination, the lack of notice, the lack of sense of collaboration, which the State Advisory Committee has exhibited, since the time I have been assigned to this council and that has been going on for four years now. With that being said, I do encourage anybody that can attend, but I also appreciate the work that you have spent meeting with them to continuously to putting forth our point to not have the work that we have done to disappear.

***Dave Tompkins:***

I will be Indiana this Monday doing a council accreditation review so Kimble will be there. We are just offering the option that folks want to go listen. The more ears that hear things will better interpretation.

***Kimble Greene:***

Questions and input like George's are important at a meeting like this.

***Dave Tompkins:***

I had meeting with the commissioner. I emailed the co-chairs Senators Harris and Coleman of the Human Services committee with a summary of where things are at and offered that if they needed more information to contact me.

***Josh Howroyd:***

***DCF Legislative Manager***

**Update on Bill 174 (416) and Bills that will reflect on Children's Behavioral Health:**

Unfortunately I wasn't really prepared to speak about the other Behavioral Health Bills. If you want to give me an e-mail list, I can add people to a distribution system and can maybe provide a really short summary. I have two other bills that are in process that people might be interested in. The biggest one

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

is Senate Bill 174, which as you been discussing came out of the Legislative Program review and investigations committee report. It looked at a whole series of DCF monitory evaluations, it composed of advisory boards reporting requirements of the department. The current status of the bill is that it has gone through the program review committee and the human services committee. It just came out on the Senate calendar yesterday. If you went on the Connecticut General Assembly website you can get the current version of the bill at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>. If you type in 174 for bill status you can pull out the latest copy of the bill. It now has file number 416. What is good about the file copy of the bill, it provides a little more background information. It has a summary of everything the bill does and it provides a fiscal impact statement. They try to keep any cost items out of the bill, but there are some that are identified. As a result to that, the Senate is going to refer to appropriations next week. Technically the bill could be up for consideration in the Senate when they meet next. Which I believe it's next Wednesday. I seriously doubt that it will come out next week. It probably isn't going to come up until late April at the earliest. My guess at this point is that it is going to have to go to appropriations, but it does make some sense to contact some members of the senate. They will be taking the bill up first and urging them to consider the concerns, specifically the language in question that your concerned about is in section six in the bill. That is what essentially the appealing section that kind of repeals CBHAC as a separate entity. The new language that incorporates CBHAC under the SAC as a new committee kind of turning the clock back to its origins. In terms of whom to contact, the Senate leadership, the Democratic and Republican leadership, Senator Don Williams, anybody from North Eastern Connecticut, Senator Martin Looney is the senate majority leader from the New Haven area, the Republican Leaders is Senator John McKinley from Fairfield. Realistically anybody should feel free to contact their own senator. The more people who get the message, particularly the grassroots level. DCF we sometimes operate legislatively we are strained sometimes with our advocacy. We have to go through an approval process through OMP and the Governors Office. Each of you could be far more effective in at the grassroots level contacting your local Senator. We are available as a resource to answer questions. The more you can kind of stir things up locally the more we are going to follow up in the executive level. I would encourage you to do that as soon as possible, over the weekend or the earliest next week at the latest because it is in the Senate calendar. I can provide my e-mail address if anybody else has any questions to follow up.

***Hal Gibber:***

What concerns me Josh is when community members, volunteer citizens, family members, start calling Legislative leadership to talk about kind of a family fight. We each go out of our way to talk about how effective and representative like this has been and the fact of the leadership of the department may or may not be aware of that. To me it's a reflection of the effectiveness of the state advisory committee. I can understand legislative staff thinking that there are too many advisory groups. The SAC has not been as interactive and supportive and reliable with this group, I say as it should have been. The year and half I have been coming to CHBAC I have seen many changes, great leadership, its usually 60 to 70 people at this meeting. We talk about not just about the kids that are in care and custody of the department, we also have representatives from other state agencies. This organization gets things done. I am not saying that SAC doesn't. It seems to me, just my opinion, we heard the family movement, we heard the advocacy movement, and we start having a family fight with the people who we collectively rely on and step up and support the department and its advisory in getting adequate and access to services to kids and families. It feels to me like the department has a responsibility to make sure this group doesn't disappear.

***Josh Howroyd:***

As you point out very articulately it is kind of an interfamily struggle which it does make it difficult. We are trying not to choose sides per say. You need to get the message out individually and do it more effectively than we can. In our own way we can reinforce that. You are perhaps one of the few

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

organizations that not only get providers out, you get parents out. That is the key and I think you don't want to undermine the effectiveness that group. I do think the program review committee staffs probably were looking in ways to stream line process. I think it might have been a cold hard look without really looking at the individually effectiveness. Frankly they spend about six months looking probably three dozen different groups out there. I am not sure they gave CBHAC dues.

**Hal Gibber:**

I know that having met with them three time individually, I made it real clear that CBHAC was the most effective of all the advisory groups that I have participated in on a regular basis.

**Tim Bowles:**

The problem I see with scenario is that is my understanding that the agency itself is taking the position in support of this bill.

**Josh Howroyd:**

General support of the bill. The bill has more than 100 recommendations. There are some we took exception to and there are some we strongly supported. There are others like this one that we kind took a middle of the road position. We were hopeful that everyone could kind of make their own case. If you can stir the nest and we can fill in the blanks to some degree in terms of the effectiveness. CBHAC has a role particularly in the Block grant process, it needs to be protected and it also has an ongoing advocacy role that needs to be supported as well. We understand that and we don't want to see its effectiveness undermined. The other kind of intramural issues that out there I don't know if we can resolve those legislatively. But clearly we need to address the language in this bill as it comes forth. Now is probably the time, unfortunately this bill moved fairly quickly in the process. Human services probably didn't give it the diligence it deserves it came up right their deadline. It is not a reflection on the leadership and the committee; it's the facts of reality and short legislative stature. Now is the time to try to get some language changes in this bill.

**Tim Bowles:**

I think that part of the problem is that some of us have been in this for a very long time and it has been a constant struggle. If the message is not reached even in at the point in legislative narrative indicates that we are inactive. I have been involved in a lot of committees and this is probably the most active committee that I have been involved in. We have gone out of our way to try initiate communication especially under Dave's leadership. The bottom line there has to be a message either from SAC directly from the agency that this body is valued. The other thing I have to say clearly without the existing language I don't believe it would be appropriate for myself as a representing as a commissioner designee from DSS to continue to be involved in this group, if there is an informal process from SAC.

**Margaret (Peggy) Ayer:**

Don't the legislators realize that they are writing themselves out on having any influence?

**Josh Howroyd:**

Most of the probably don't understand it. They probably don't know as much about CHBAC.

**Marcy Kane:**

Our statute requires that we have representation and designees.

**Margaret (Peggy) Ayer:**

What we would like to do of course is get that language back

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

**Josh Howroyd:**

Keep the message simple that you would like to restore the current system or propose some modifications to that. Number one you have to express your opposition to the bill as written and then feel free to suggest the alternative. The alternative could be is the current stats or modification.

**Dave Tompkins:**

We have written a summary that went to the commissioner's office that clearly said that when you read the report of the committee it made sense and the language in the report recommended that CBHAC be incorporated into the SAC to make it more powerful. The language in bill 174 moved away from that. Our simple message is that there is a disconnect between the recommendation and the language implemented and our recommendation is to put the language keeping CBHAC in statue at least for this year so it could be further examined.

**Josh Howroyd:**

The bill is written and appears to go beyond the staff recommendation. When we took the initial position of the bill we were looking at the full study. By large the committee did an excellent job in their review. They couldn't invest the time in each and every entity.

**Cara Westcott:**

Do you know how much money they are taking about putting on this?

**Josh Howroyd:**

I don't know if there is any appropriation directly associated with this. Not in this section of this bill.

**Cara Westcott:**

I am talking about the whole bill. Are we talking about a lot of money?

**Josh Howroyd:**

There are other sections in the bill, require an external evaluation of any new programs or services the department establishes that will cost more than 20 million dollars. The bill does explain that and its not a huge number. Frankly the programs review committee put their recommendations in two separate bills with the express intent to keep to cost items out of this bill. The legislature can ignore the fiscal note but typically the kind of over refer bill.

**Cara Westcott:**

Do you have any sense that why; I mean it would be pretty simple, maybe I'm looking at this to simplistically to have said that the committee that SAC is establishing is CBHAC. That would have solved this. I think its insulted to say this group is inactive, maybe of us have been coming for 10 years and I have see some of the same people who have been around this table for 10 years.

**Dave Tompkins:**

Irv's position is that he did not initiate this and they were not a part of this. When I talked to them, I felt that they wanted to incorporate CBHAC.

**Rachel Sherman:**

Are they aware of that are some of us who have federal mandates to participate in the block grant and we are listed in that bill?

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

**Josh Howroyd:**

Yes, that is a major concern and regardless there needs to be continuity.

**Marcy Kane:**

I have two things: I think that the important piece of it is that it dissolves a body that has some clear statutory implications and appointments. If this body is dissolved than there is a pretty significant chance or difficulty in meeting that deadline. I don't think that it is being communicated and people do not understand the significance in that. The second thing that I am having trouble with is that the report states that the department have an oversight body that has the ability to evaluate the happenings of the department and one which is the provision of behavioral health services and families in the state. What I am having trouble with is how is State Advisory Council can serve in that function, when historically they have never served in that way. For our part I think that we have a little bit more.

**Josh Howroyd:**

My personal perspective is that the staff was looking to elevate the role of the SAC. I have been at DCF about 18 years and I have seen very active SAC members. The program review staff kind of thought what the ideal SAC model was. In trying to elevate the role, it kind of glossed over what the residual impact was.

**Lorna Grivois: SAC member**

I was also a CBHAC member for many years and I see the great value of this committee. Most of you have known me know that I have focused on the Mental Health Block Grant but also like focusing on the practice standards. I also know that as a SAC member I was stunned to read that report. Most of us did not know that it was coming. I am under the impression that SAC will also be restructured but what that means, I don't know. Again SAC is run very differently than CBHAC. I think that it is really important that if we are going to be talking to our legislatures we need to talk about not just the mental health block grant, but all the other work that has happened here: practice standards, systems of care, and all the things that have happened at this table. For the seven years I served at this table.

**Hal Gibber:**

It probably would be effective to have all of us contact our senators and it doesn't have to be a family fight, rather we can make the point about what CBHAC's role was in the original report and what it turned out to be in Legislative.

**Karen Smith:**

I agree that we shall all have a voice and trying to make a change in this. I support in writing, calling and doing all of that. Your point of being more than the Mental Health Block Grant is really important as a parent and seeing that so many families and children including my own. Which have the mental health issues, are not DCF involved and are not system of cares involved that really need their voices heard? I am hoping that in someway we can restructure ourselves if this does not works. We can be still effective maybe with the Office of the Child Advocate, where someone appreciates who we are and what we do.

**Cara Westcott:**

Who introduced this?

**Josh Howroyd:**

The Legislative Investigation Committee.

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

**Dave Tompkins:**

**Recommendation:** Leave our next meeting and depending what happens to bill and outcome we will cancel or we could leave it for planning.

**Senator Edward Meyer:** point person on the bill - Senate Chair of the program review committee and chair of the select committee of children

**Cara Westcott:**

***I would like to make a motion - that CBHAC take this recommendation to the SAC. That the SAC support the change to restoring the language. I think that we should make a formal request that SAC supports this language to stay and that CBHAC has an entity - motion approved***

**Committee Reports:**

**Nominating Committee:**

*Marcy Kane/ Marie Capiris*

- Mary Martinez application was approved on March and has forward application to State Advisory Council.
- Full Membership
- Next application is George McDonald

**Local System of Care**

*Dave Tompkins/ Hal Gibber*

*No recommendations*

**Standards for State Funded Behavioral Health Programs**

*Scott Newgass/ Vacant*

**Scott Newgass:**

Would like to speak to SAC about behavioral Health Standards - no recommendations

**Mental Health Block Grant**

*Kimble Greene/ Vacant*

Annual Conference will be in Washington DC - volunteer to represent us and the State will be Cathy Adamczyk.

**Behavioral Health Services – BHP Interface**

*Debbie McKusker/ Sarah Becker*

*No recommendations*

**Multiculturalism**

*Sincilina Beckett/ VACANT*

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
(CBHAC)**

*No recommendations*

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**Mentoring & Respite**

*Mona Tremblay/ Neil Quatrano*

No recommendations at this time.

**Transitioning Youth Initiative**

Tim Bowles/ Lolli Ross

**Family and Youth Focus Meeting:**

***Hal Gibber:***

It was a family and youth focus meeting to represent family youth voices and make recommendations to the larger group.

***George McDonald:***

- Four different youth groups
- Mentoring
- Talking about various issues
- Orientation package for new youth
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting set up for April the 28<sup>th</sup>.

***Dave Tompkins:***

Would like to have the commissioner for the next 25 collaborative meeting

***Patricia Gaylord:***

It just concerns me because I have case load of families and I am wondering how we are going to transition them and their effects that this is going to have on our families. Our community is working well as systems of care. We have no idea how this is going to play out and how it will affect our families.

***Tim Marshall:***

The issue of care coordination around the state has developed in a number of different ways. A many of you know are aware that DCF is re-procuring the Emergency Mobile Psychiatric System. The combine contract of EMPS care coordination and enhanced care coordination. The department has made a decision to separate those out. The state covered on all three of those services among 11 contractors some of them who have subcontracts. In the process the departments announced that the intention was to keep care coordination stable and that we will reprocurring that side and or enhance care coordination. That is the way we went about and begun the process. We were not aware that in that process that a lot of the contractors would reconsider a number of subcontracts. DCF doesn't have a standing in that and cannot say if they can or cannot do that. We will be monitoring closely any of those situations. General contractors can reconsider their sub-contract and not change those. It will be up to the contract to decide who they want to use for care coordination.

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:36AM*

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Lorena Emanuel