

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

Thirty one appointed members  
(Fifty-one percent to be parents)  
Twenty-seven appointments filled, currently four vacancies  
Statewide Advisory Council appointments currently three 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-**Tammy Garris**

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

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

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## **Meeting Minutes from May 02, 2008**

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

Margaret (Peggy) Ayer, Tim Bowles, Tammy Garris, Patricia Gaylord, 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, Cara Westcott, Scott Newgass, Cathy Adamczyk, Marie Capiris, Karen Smith, Chet Brodnicki,

### **Excused Appointed Members:**

Cathy Foley-Geib, Kimble Greene, Patricia Gaylord, Cara Westcott, Grace Nelson

### **Unexcused Appointed Members:**

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

DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton, Deirdre Cotter Garfield, Lorna Grivois, Karen Andersson, Marilyn Cloud, Amy O'Connor, Hal Gibber, R. Wiseman, Allyson L. Nadeau, Doreen Marshall, Brenda Wilcry, LLonja Gordon, Christy Jones, Denise Tillman, Linda Spill, Laura Hadder, Mary Held, Gabrielle Hall, Sally Gaston, WM Anderson

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

**Mission:**

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

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

**Co-chairs report:**

***Dave Tompkins:***

*Note: At this time SB 174 was not moved out of the Judiciary Committee so we are continuing our business as usual.*

***Featured speaker: DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton***

**Recommendations:**

- How we can we be a stronger voice and better integrated
- Re-structuring
- Updated By-laws
- Sending monthly minutes and sending recommendations to the State Advisory Committee
- Meeting for continuous for both groups
- Issues regarding Behavioral Health for Children

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

Focus on Children's Behavioral Health:

How do we integrate better system state wide: critical area of focus

- Ways to integrate and language could be flexible enough to allow for integration of the SAC and CBHAC whether the statute changes or not

Strategies that might help address system issues concerns, service development program and integration piece. How can we help address and implement strategies?

***Marcy Kane:***

What are the general expectations of the State Advisory Council? How do you see us fit into that?

***DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:***

***The general expectations of the State Advisory Council are:***

- Concrete recommendations across global program areas on an annual basis
- Focus on primary areas that need attention and action steps
  - Recommendations have mirrored the global areas that needed the most attention
- DCF does a formal response with regards to the recommendations that will be implemented
  - One of the expectations is to include CBHAC recommendations report along with the State Advisory recommendations.

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
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**Hal Gibber:**

- More support for state wide system of care collaboratives
- Figuring out ways to enhance the family and youth voice as a way to improve the system

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

How is it working locally and what can we do in terms of concrete steps to be more inclusive. For example, Youth Advisory committee has full youth participation within the development of the policy. How can we utilize the family strengths on what work for them and what doesn't work for them. Taking a global vision and taking concrete strategies to actually do that in a better way. I am in full support of the collaboratives and the systems of care. How could the Department better evidence its support with and without resources?

State Wide Advisory Board:

- Actively involved developing policy ideas
- Youth participation

**Dave Tompkins:**

- The collaboratives themselves never got any structural funding or resources
- How can we get money for our collaboratives

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

- Strengthening and setting structures
- Resources would definitely help but don't anticipate any additional funding becoming available

**Chet Brodnicki:**

Commissioner, I just learned this morning that the EMPS RFPs were pulled. Can you explain that?

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

Two concerns in particular:

- It didn't encourage hospitals from applying
- Or subcontractor or existing EMPS providers
  - Changes in language on the RFP
  - EMPS RFP will be reposted
  - Notices will be sent out to anyone who submitted letter of intent

**Karen Smith:**

I am co-chair collaborative and have been with out funding for over a year. We are sill functioning and have sixty members with twenty parent members. The only challenge we are having is gas money for our families to get to different meetings state wide. Transportation funding has become a huge crisis for families to be around the tables' state wide and limits the family voice.

**Lorna Grivois:**

Regarding the EMPS, the reissue of it, how much family involvement are you looking for?

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

We are not redoing the process we are only making one paragraph change regarding the hospitals and sub-contracting.

**Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee  
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**Lorna Grivois:**

How much parent involvement or family involvement was included in the initial RFP?

**Tim Marshall:**

We had three or four with a year long process with three community meetings. We also met advocates of FAVOR to provide feedback and a number of forums that had parent involvement.

**Lorna Grivois:**

Second question is you mentioned your youth advisory. How do you get on to the youth advisory, what are the age ranges, what type of views are you looking for?

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

The area offices all have their local youth advisory boards and they each designate members that represent the State Wide Youth Advisory Board. Frank Martin oversees the Youth Advisory boards.

**Marie Capiris:**

Lack of funding for collaboratives:

The Milford Collaborative was funded with a three year grant. We met with our local Legislature that was absolutely astounded that no one had approached the Legislature for funds. Our Local State Senator specifically said that her office would be more than happy to help write a bill on behalf of the local collaborative and present to Legislature. I am just sharing that information.

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

There are various channels that ultimately can be utilized to advocate for funding to be included in the final budget.

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

**Prevention:**

- Focus on preventing on-going DCF involvement
- Preventing unnecessary removals
- Reducing the length of time kids and families have to stay in our system or receive services
- Shortening that time frame, but also not seeing an increase of repeat maltreatment or re-reports to the department

**Darcy Lowell:**

How can we make sure that our programs address specifically the needs of children and families on very individualized bases?

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

We are working on an integrated agency wide strategic plan across Bureaus. We have been working with the National Resource Center on Organizational Development to help us frame that.

**Tim Marshall:**

There are concerns with groups or collaboratives working as silos due to certain Connecticut mandates.

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

Would welcome the opportunity for recommendations from CBHAC

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**Cathy Adamczyk:**

Two issues:

- In my community there is such a need for therapeutic pre-school
- Providers do not have funding or resources available
- Prevention:
  - addressing behavioral issues at the pre-school level
  - reduce involvement with DCF
  - and may not need intensive treatments later on in life
- The issues of services available for Autistic children

**Tammy Garris:**

Any child from birth to three can be eligible for the Department of Developmental Services. At the age of eight, they have to be retested and have to have the diagnosis of mental retardation to remain a client of DDS. How we divided up voluntary services with DCF is under the age of eight they would still apply to DCF for voluntary services. For the kids under the age of eight, certain area offices will not qualify families and children with autism for voluntary services.

**Cathy Adamczyk:**

With a child that has "autism". What is autism and what is "mental health"?

**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

There is a gap in service for that group. What is that gap and how are going to fill that gap. Who should be responsible? This group could provide a set of recommendations and what will be the resources involved in providing access to that service.

**Parent:**

Comments on the emphasize of individualized help driven by the family and not by the system

**Dave Tompkins:**

Last 20 minutes the sub-committees will be getting together in order to organize meeting dates and updates.

**Marilyn Cloud:**

**New Initiative: Engaging Families in Services Learning Collaborative for Extended Day Treatment Providers**

- Families tell us and research studies document that involving families in all aspects of service planning, treatment, and discharge planning positively impacts program outcomes.
- For these reasons DCF and the EDT provider community have launched a 10-month Engaging Families in Services Learning Collaborative.
- All members of the EDT Treatment Teams will learn strategies and protocols for engaging families, under the leadership of expert faculty, Dr. Mary McKay of Mt Sinai School of Medicine and Dr. Elizabeth Meeker of Coordinated Care Services, New York.
- Additionally, EDT clinical staff will be trained in delivering Multi-Family Groups.
- Also, each EDT program will assemble a Quality Improvement Team that is comprised of staff representing each job function as well as a parent representative to develop various quality improvement projects within their site to impact outreach and engagement of families in the EDT program.

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**DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton:**

We would like to have a separate call center that is not the HOTLINE number for accessing Voluntary Services.

**Committee Reports:**

**Behavioral Health Services – BHP Interface**

*Debbie McKusker/ Sarah Becker*

*No recommendations*

**Standards for State Funded Behavioral Health Programs**

*Scott Newgass/ Vacant*

No recommendations at this time

**Mental Health Block Grant**

*Kimble Greene/ Vacant*

No recommendations at this time

**Local System of Care**

*Dave Tompkins/ Hal Gibber*

- Working with 20 people
  - Advocacy, sustainability, and infrastructure in communication
  - Continue to meet - state wide meeting at a quarterly basis

**Nominating Committee:**

*Marcy Kane/ Marie Capiris*

- No response from SAC has been made in regards to Mary Martinez' membership application for CBHAC.

**Multiculturalism**

*Sincilina Beckett/ VACANT*

*No recommendations*

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**Mentoring & Respite**

*Mona Tremblay/ Neil Quatrano*

No recommendations at this time

**Transitioning Youth Initiative**

Tim Bowles/ Lolli Ross

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***Tim Bowles:***

- We have been meeting on a regular basis
- Focusing on youth and parent input
- Brought in organizations to provide updates on transitioning youth
- To really bring together some young adults (DCF and non DCF) and begin to plan the next step
- Next meeting is going to be May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 here at Value Options in this same conference room.

*The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM*

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Lorena Emanuel