

Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (CBHAC)

Thirty one appointed members
(Fifty-one percent to be parents)
28 appointments filled, currently three vacancies
Statewide Advisory Council appointments currently one vacancies
Legislative appointments one vacancy
Governor's appointment no vacancies

Appointments. By State Advisory Council:

Co-Chair: Dave Tompkins (01/06/06-02/04/11),
Sincilina Beckett, Darcy Lowell, Norma Irving, Tabor Napiello and Debbie McCusker (09/06/07 – 09/06/12) **Karen Smith, Co-Chair: Dorian M. Vicedomini**, (02/28/08 - 02/28/10) **Mary Martinez, George McDonald** (10/08/08 - 10/08/10) **Mary Held** (03/31/09 - 03/31/11) **Hal Gibber** (01/07/10 - 01/07/2012)

Governor's Appointments:

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

Legislative Appointments:

Pres. Pro Tempore Appt. Donald Williams - **Margaret (Peggy) Ayer** (08/15/05-08/15/11), Speaker of the House Appt. Christopher Donovan - **John McGann** (12/14/05-06/30/10), Maj. Leader of the Senate Appt. Martin Looney- **Gabrielle Hall** (11/25/09 – 11/25/11), Min. Leader of the Senate Appt. John McKinney-**Marcy Kane** (04/07/05-06/30/12), Min. Leader of the House Larry Cafero - **Vacant** Maj. Leader of the House Appt. Denise Merrill - **Robert Franks** (02/20/09 - 06/30/10)

State Department Commissioner Designees:

Department of Children and Families - **Tim Marshall**, Department of Social Services - **Vacant**,
Department of Education - **Scott Newgass**, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - **Nikki Richer**,
Department of Developmental Services-**Maureen Thomas**

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

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

Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2010

Appointed Members in Attendance:

Margaret (Peggy) Ayer, Sincilina Becket, Mary Held, Hal Gibber, Debbie McCusker, George McDonald, Nikki Richer, Dave Tompkins, Dorian Vicedomini

Excused Appointed Members:

Mary Martinez, Norma Irving, John Torello, Gabrielle Hall, Darcy Lowell, Tim Marshall, Tabor Napiello, Rachel Sherman, Karen Smith, Cara Westcott, Robert Franks, Maureen Thomas, Scott Newgass

Unexcused Appointed Members:

John McGann

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Lorna Grivois, Laura Hadder, Kathy Carrier, Diana Rodriguez, Matt Salner, Tawana Bale, Michelle Drake, Mary Bruce, Susan Williamson, Michelle Tournas, Tim Bowles, Paige Trevethan

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

Meeting was called to order by Co-chairs, Dave Tompkins and Dorian Vicedomini – 10:12AM

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

Sub-Committee Planning

For this meeting the co-chairs of all of our subcommittees and any member and guest will come together for a full meeting towards conversation about how we will move forward and talk about our goals for next year. We need to become more formalized and make more formal recommendations. Otherwise we are not meeting our goals as a committee.

The goals of this meeting are:

- Review recommendations made during this past year to the State Advisory Committee
- Review accomplishments
- Establish our work plan for the coming year

Doriana and I have been trying to attend all of the State Advisory (SAC) Meetings and are part of the SAC agenda to report on CBHAC and any recommendations.

The recommendations that have been primarily made by CBHAC have been around the budget. On *January 9th 2009* we made some recommendations around the upcoming budget process. *In June 5th 2009* we made more recommendations around the state budget process. In our minutes on *September 11th 2009* we made - CBHAC Legislative recommendation related to getting KidCare back to its former status. KidCare trainings were suspended due to the budget decrease, which is a necessity for DCF to maintain services. Wraparound trainings piloted in Bristol and Farmington with the potential of expanding to other areas.

Monthly recommendation from the practice standards subcommittee -

All Programs funded by state agencies for children and their families should have written and approved Practice Standards that describe the services. This will assist with programs implementation and with assuring that the same practice standards are followed statewide.

We did send the Annual Status report of 2009 and we also wrote a letter to the DCF Commissioner, Susan Hamilton from our Statewide Council Community Collaboratives.

Marcy Kane: We have not received feedback from the State Advisory Committee and or the Commissioner - my recommendation around the process would be "where is the accountability of SAC and the Commissioner to legislatively appointed bodies". There is really no meaningful knowledge or feedback in terms of what is happening in this legislatively appointed council directly to the commissioner to which we are a subcommittee.

Lorna Grivois parent concerns:

- The process should include a time frame request for response.
- It would smart of us think about how the Mental Health Block Grant is divided by adult and children.

Dave Tompkins: The Mental Health Block Grant subcommittee should work more closely with Marilyn Cloud as she is always looking forward to our feedback.

Hal Gibber: There is a difference between the SAC and CBHAC. CBHAC because of the number of participants and the representative of the family members within the department is seen as an organization that we need to be paid attention to if not utilized to further their goals. We do have some

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standing. It seems to me that Dave pointed out that we have expanded the Block Grant subcommittee with the help of Marilyn Cloud. It would be strategic for us to have more of a relationship with SAC and should be working more as a partnership. When its parents pushing back against professionals there are strength in numbers. It is about time for us to request responses to the recommendations we make. We need to stay on top of our process to make those recommendations. Three or four exciting ones have emerged for me in the last couple of months particularly those disabilities groups that have the least access to services in Connecticut. I also have suggestions about some allocation from the Block Grant for resources to strengthen the infrastructure of systems of care.

Parent concerns: DCF keeps coming into families home and don't follow their own guidelines. They don't provide parents literature to and or knowledge to fight back. If you don't do what they say, DCF will take your kids. I am part of Better together and I don't see that being used as far as DRS as well. So where do they become accountable for any of their actions.

Tim Bowles: One thing about the Block Grant. We did have a very good meeting with Marilyn Cloud and Tim Marshall regarding questions & answers about the Block Grant. My suggestion is that we extend a formal invitation to the Commissioner around the October CBHAC meeting. We could directly tell her our recommendations, concerns and really try to create a partnership that should have already existed.

Hal Gibber: A joint meeting would be ideal. We could strategize and establish it as annual event; we give our annual report of the state of the collaboratives, a biannual report on strengths and weaknesses in the system and ties into the Mental Health Block Grant. We need to get organize and getting more aggressive.

Parent: Is DCF accredited?

Dave Tompkins: I am one of the peer reviewers for the COA. DCF looked into being accredited but hey realized that they had a long way to go. We are not aware of any progress on this front.

Parent Concern: A long these lines I think that you're right about accountability. I don't think we can move forward without having that accountability piece in place. We can make recommendations for ever and it's not going to go any place. From my experience with the block grant a lot of these guidelines that are coming down from the federal government. We can make these recommendations but the department doesn't have to infuse them. We have to take this up to higher letter and even invite some of the Feds and or write a letter with our recommendations and concerns. If we stay focus on one thing, I think it would be more effective.

Nikki Richer: They are supposed to add everything on the comment section. There are certain things that come from the Feds that we cannot change. We are committed to certain items.

Hal Gibber: The Block Grant is associated with annual state plan. This is DCF's discussion of their strengths, weakness and priorities and the block grant is a little piece of money. We are going to be at the table with people who are interested not just CBHAC's role in making recommendation to the Block Grant. We can expand the conversation into picking two or three priority issues the Children's Behavioral Advisory Committee wants to start a dialogue with the Federal agency that approves DCF's state plan.

Tim Bowles: We established a follow-up meeting and we are going to be more involved with the process.

Dave Tompkins:

There are a number of state statutes that were described within our bylaws:

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- 1.) Our purpose is to submit an annual status report on local systems of care and practice standards for state-funded behavioral health programs to the State Advisory Council on Children and Families no later than October first of each year.
- 2.) To submit recommendation concerning the provision of behavioral health services for all children in the state to the State Advisory Council on Children and Families not later than October first of each odd-numbered year.

Our duties as the State of Connecticut's Children's Mental Health Planning and Advisory council are:

- a. Review the Federal Mental Health Services Block Grant plan for the State of Connecticut and make recommendations concerning said plan;
- b. Serve as an advocate for children with serious emotional disturbances; and
- c. Monitor, review and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services within the State.

Using that we have a lot of power and authority that we do not use a lot. We should take a look at what our purpose is statutorily and make sure that we are doing what we need to do and make sure people are following up and responding on what we are doing.

Doriana Vicedomini: to me as a parent, I am frustrated sometimes because we talk a lot about the Mental Health Block Grant and it's a drop in a bucket of what the state spends in services and programs. There is so much more being spent that we are not really discussing or advocating for it. Its nothing compared to the rest of the money being spent.

Tom Bowles: I believe strongly that KidCare would have never happened unless there were members and parents from CBHAC. We have been successful lobbying heavily for mental health services for kids.

Dave Tompkins: We should talk more about the process recommendations about accountability. We also have two recommendations:

1. Recommending DCF to become accredited on a national basis
2. Lets get back to KidCare

Internally we need to do something different. We need to get our recommendations before the next State Advisory Meeting. SAC meeting are the following Monday after our CBHAC meeting. Our minutes are not circulated until the end of the month so we would be reporting a month late.

Hal Gibber: I am asking for help as the co-chair of Systems of Care and Behavioral Health. We need to write to reports by the first Monday in October. What would be a great benefit to us and committee members is feedback and suggestions. I am looking for as much input and suggestions and feedback on what is working and what is not working.

Dave Tompkins: For September's meeting we should review the annual report with a full discussion and in October it gets presented to the commissioner and SAC. For the biannual report we were going to take a look at the DCF white paper and our report would be our response and reaction.

Parent: Since you can't change when the minutes are completed, I would recommend that when you have recommendations, you take the recommendations and appoint someone to directly

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write up the recommendation and send it out in the first couple of days.

Dave Tompkins: Going back to process and accountability

One recommendation we will request and put in place starting this October. Annually our October meeting will be dedicated to sharing our reports with the State Advisory Council and the Commissioner. We will be inviting both to our meetings. The second part of that will be a review of recommendation we made in the past year. We will ask directly to the SAC and Commissioner where we stand on those recommendations.

Tim Bowles: My suggestion is to invite the two co-chairs of the commission on children.

Doriana Vicedomini: I am feeling a little concerned about the logistics of all of this. I would feel comfortably if we came up with a game plan. We have a lot to do and I think it would be good to have some people take the lead.

Dave Tompkins: We should set up a series of sub-committee meetings and make sure that we are getting the product together and have something in draft for September and a final solid write up for October.

For this year, we have the meeting at the LOB. We will invite the State Advisory Council and the Commissioner and a couple of key legislators. For next year we can have the select commission co-sponsor us and have other presenters as well. A panel of parents and youth would be very powerful voice as well.

Tim Bowles: Ultimately we should hold people responsible and accountable for what they are doing. We need to make sure that we are heard as an appointed legislative committee.

Next Meeting Information:

November 5th 9:30am- Noon

LOB Hearing Room 1 A

Audio visual equipment is ordered

Room is reserved and in their system for CBHAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Lorena Emanuel

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RECOMMENDATION FROM CBHAC

AUGUST 6, 2010

During the August 2010 CBHAC meeting the following recommendations were made;

1. CBHAC recommends an annual joint meeting between the SAC and CBHAC, with the DCF Commissioner invited. This meeting will take place on the first Friday of November and will be held at a venue large enough to seat all participants. The purpose of the meeting will be for CBHAC to formally present to the SAC all annual reports that are required by statute, along with other agenda items from both the SAC and CBHAC. Additionally, the agenda will include a status review of the recommendations that had been forwarded to the SAC during the past year.
2. CBHAC recommends improved communication between CBHAC, the SAC and the DCF Commissioner. Recommendations forwarded to the SAC are formally acknowledged by the SAC Leadership. Missing from the process is feedback from the DCF Commissioners level as to the outcome of the recommendations made by CBHAC through the SAC.
3. CBHAC recommends that the Department of Children and Families reviews its decision not to pursue national accreditation for best practices. Accreditation through The Council on Accreditation (COA) had previously been discussed by the department. We believe that achieving this level of accreditation will improve many internal and external processes for DCF, including accountability to its stakeholders.
4. CBHAC recommends that the DCF reviews its decision to eliminate some of the main tenants of KidCare. While the programs implemented through this legislation remain, the culture change of moving towards a child centered, family driven, and community based system of care has not been fully implemented throughout DCF. The current twenty five Community Collaboratives receive no funding for infrastructure or operations and have had a varying degree of success in having DCF staff involved in their activities and initiatives. Until the DCF reduction in staff several years ago DCF staff were involved in all Collaboratives and provided support for the meetings. Since the reduction in force, there has been minimal attendance in many Collaboratives and no support for meetings.