

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) **Amy O'Connor** (04/09/10-04/09/2012)

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 - **M. Jeffrey Spahr** (09/03/09-06/30/2011) 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 June 4, 2010

Appointed Members in Attendance:

Cathy Adamczyk, Margaret (Peggy) Ayer, Robert Franks, John Torello, Gabrielle Hall, Norma Irving, Marcy Kane, Darcy Lowell, George McDonald, Tim Marshall, Mary Martinez, Tabor Napiello, Amy O'Conner, Nikki Richer, Rachel Sherman, Dave Tompkins, Dorian Vicedomini, Cara Westcott, Maureen Thomas

Excused Appointed Members:

Mary Held, Debbie McCusker, Karen Smith, M. Jeffrey Spahr

Unexcused Appointed Members:

Sincilina Beckett, John McGann, Scott Newgass, Hal Gibber

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Molly Cole, Brenetta Henry, Ellen Wright, Neil Briddell, Brenda Wilcox, Heidi Pugliese, Lorna Grivois, Kathy Carrier, Nancy Dumont, Michelle Drake, Alma Vazquez, Mary Bruce, Lynn Roberson, Margart Roberson, Wanda Roberson, Tawana Bourne, Neva Caldwell, Michelle Tournas, Ofelia Velazquez, Cindy Thomas, Janice Bendall, Yesenia Acosta, Debra Gannon, Carmon Sarmiento, Susan Williamson,

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

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Meeting was called to order by Co-chair, Dave Tompkins – 10:11AM

Approval of Minutes:

December meeting minutes were voted on and approved at 11:15AM.

Co-chairs report:

Dave Tompkins and Doriana Vicedomini

State Advisory Council Update: Molly Cole

- We are finishing a combined report to DCF - We are responsible for submitting a Citizens Review Panel report to DCF; pulled all recommendations and actions that we have taken over this past year
 - Policy review (new policies, edits or changes)
 - We submit written recommendations as well as other work done with the department and are folded into the Citizen Review Panel Report along with the specific focus which was to take a further look at the office of the Ombudsman.
 - Monday the council will review the final edits of the report and will finalize by June 15th.
 - We would love to have written recommendations from the CBHAC body for next years report.
 - This summer we will begin to look at Residential Facilities - visit each residential facility and report back to the residential committee
 - Latest Nominations will be voted on the next State Advisory meeting.

Parent Concerns: regarding families transitioning to other parts of the state and accessing programs and services available to them. How can we better help the transitioning families and concerned about the lack of oversight within the Community Collaboratives.

Tim Marshall: Members of Community Collaboratives are all volunteered

- Any concerns should come to me as a DCF Manager that oversees the Community Collaboratives and/or the workgroup which oversees this body called the State wide Council of the Community Collaboratives
- Practice standards do exist and will be updated by CBHAC and this will provide another opportunity to address any concerns.

Dave Tompkins: Care Coordination and the funded services should all be similar throughout the state. This could go back to Tim and he could work on representing DCF. The Collaboratives themselves are just an organization of people getting together voluntarily. We are trying to take the approach of not having authority of the collaboratives but being a resource to them that pulls them together to make them all stronger. As far as services could be addressed specifically and our sub-committees can also address that issue as well.

Question from Amy O'Connor: (To SAC Chair, Molly Cole) this summer when you are visiting residential facilities is it possible for a CBHAC member to go with you?

Molly Cole: That is not our decision and is something we would discuss with the Department. The facilities are Connecticut Juvenile Training School, Riverview and Connecticut Children's Place. It is not within my purview to say yes or no. I will discuss it, but that is a mandate that is given to SAC. We are really trying to build a closer working relationship with all advisory committees. Let's put a hold on it as we haven't figured out a schedule and will get back to Dave and Doriana.

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Dave Tompkins: We need to bring specific recommendations and the focus of our Sub-Committees has to be coming up with formal recommendations that get approved and sent forward to the State Advisory Committee.

Tim Marshall: There were a couple of direct recommendations that went through the minutes. The practice standards committee has made the same recommendation to SAC two or three times within the context of the minutes. The main recommendations have been that the department have practice standards for all of their services.

Michelle - Parent: If a family is having an issue from town to town. Isn't there care coordination through Wellpath in every region?

Tabor Napiello: No, there is care coordination in every region through different agencies. The goal is to make sure that care coordination is available throughout all regions.

Cara Westcott: Care coordination is different in different parts of the state. The same services might not be the same or available in a different town or region.

Legislative Update: Amy O'Connor

- o Session ended on May 5th and Legislature passed a budget that addressed our deficit and the Governor signed it. Some major cuts that were proposed:
 - Medicaid co-pays
 - Co-pay increases for people on Medicaid or Medicare were rejected
 - Legislature was able preserve a protection for people who are stable on psychiatric medications
 - Fifty supportive housing units funded for people with mental illnesses who are frequent users of expensive state services
 - No across the board cuts to non-profit providers this year
 - Increases for Husky B premiums
 - Medicaid coverage of over the counter drugs was eliminated with some exceptions such as Diabetic drugs
 - Definition of Medical necessity a group of advocates worked with DSS and Legislature to pass a new definition that does not restrict access to care, medication or equipment
 - A bill to consolidate the agencies (DCF, DHMAS, DSS and DPH) not make it
 - The pharmaceutical and therapeutics committee is a group that decides which medications are going to go in the states preferred drug list. The process by which these drugs are reviewed did not leave much room for the public to comment. NAMI Connecticut fought for a bill that would mandate that the public would have the opportunity to comment.
 - Senate bill 140 is to provide transitional youth for DCF to DHMAS with services until transition plan was complete - the bill died in the Senate and advocates will be pushing for next year
 - It is a great time to start building a relationship with your Legislatures
 - In the Fall and is in the early planning stages - some folks from the Connecticut Health Foundation and NAMI CT are collaborating with them to hold the Children's Mental Health Action Day were we are going to hold a candidate forum. We want to make children's mental health a top priority.

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- This will be my last CBHAC meeting and no longer will be a CBHAC member as I will be pursuing Law school.
- Matt Salner is our new policy staff person at NAMI CT and is very knowledgeable and has extensive experience about tracking bills and understanding all of the details. He will be providing the Legislative update to CBHAC.

Nikki Richer: You can contact the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services which operates and/or funds Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) offering a wide range of therapeutic programs and crisis intervention services throughout the state. Housing Services for additional information or questions please contact Steve Dilella, 860-418-6845 steve.dilella@po.state.ct.us

Doriana Vicedomini - Open Forum:

Update on our Quarterly Meeting and what is happening with Autism in the state of Connecticut:

- We are talking about planning a strategic initiative to develop an autism entity to better serve children and youth in the spectrum.
 - DDS has the division of Autism - Criteria of population who do not have mental retardation; DDS is only serving 50 adults can serve up to 60; pilot funds will run out this year
 - Current application in progress for 3 Medicaid waivers
 - Sub-committee on Autism comprised of CBHAC members as well as Favor members
 - Current focus of the committee has been to have a centralize point of reference for information regarding the Autism spectrum. The recommendation from some members is that the upcoming year be the year for Autism for CBHAC and the 25 collaboratives. We all support together and strategically to get this division a true division and possibly get some funding.
 - Second recommendation is to look and discuss good examples of collaboration and transition some of the examples:
 - DCF to DHMAS and,
 - DCF to DDS
 - Smooth transition for individuals on the spectrum as they become young adults

Nikki Richer: Application is not finalized and deadline is in September.

Doriana Vicedomini: The suggestion was made to write a letter that comes from CAC, CBHAC and the 25 community collaboratives and address the letter to each of the Candidates for Governor asking them - ***"at this time there is no true home for Autism, what is your positioning on having one funded or developed?"***

This was presented at our Quarterly meeting and there was discussion pertaining to their local areas with individuals on the spectrum with exception of the New Haven area.

- Huge demand
- Limited services

What we are hearing from families is that regardless if the child or adult has mental retardation or doesn't, if they are on the spectrum there are specific needs that need to be understand. We have

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limited individuals who truly understand what autism means. If we have central place where people understand the autism spectrum people will get better services.

Marcy Kane: Coming from the mental health side, I do believe that there is a responsibility for mental health agencies to treat children with autism who do not qualify for DDS services. Autism is a diagnosis of the DSM it fall under the rubric of Behavioral Health Disorders. One would wonder then what is the role of behavioral health in this process or initiative and if we do have existing agencies or collaboratives aren't taking this as issue and it is a services needed within our families and communities. How can we come together and push the initiative forward?

Cara Westcott: What was also talked about is what is happening within our collaborative and what collaboratives can do.

Tim Marshall: You might consider separating the suggestion of asking the potential candidates for Governor what their plan would be. That seems to be a separate issue than a group coming together making changes. The second part is whether or not there is an agreement that this is a big issue. It seems there should be agreement before there is a recommendation.

- a. That it is a good thing to ask candidates for governor what their positions are, and it would be a surprise that there is not a consensus that this is a big issue

Parent concern: for people of color it is hard to access these services. It is also very hard for us already because are kids fall under the 70 percentile. I think one of the things we should focus on is making it universal throughout the state and community wide.

Doriana Vicedomini: Part of the proposal is that we have one in place to have families go to. We understand that families are overwhelmed and are faced with many roadblocks. This would at least direct families in the right place and are directed by people who understand the autism spectrum.

Darcy Lowell: Every child needs a different array of services and every family needs a different array of services and we need to be responsive to that. It should be a collaboration between a mental health service of DCF then DDS and SDE because there also educational services which are absolutely helpful.

Mary Martinez: We need to forward as parents and make this happen.

Parent Concern: Not available services in the area for her three kids with mental issues.

Tim Marshall: The request for services for kids on the autism spectrum across the state is very high and each service category has a criteria about who is eligible and who is not. It is an issue that is so pervasive that essentially we need to acknowledge that there is a need. If you provide mental health services, you need to know how to work with kids on the autism spectrum. This group (CBHAC) as a full advocacy group becomes very important voice.

Parent concern: Realistically how can we even look forward to this even happening for our children at a point in time right know that is critical? Especially with families and children that don't meet the criteria.

Darcy Lowell: It should not be that receiving services should be based on an IQ level. To let services stay in agency like DDS with its own limitations is not serving this population well.

Maureen Thomas: DDS is a supplementary division of autism. It serves people with IQ's 70 and above who have an autistic spectrum disorder. The services are extremely limited. The reason why it was

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paired with DDS is probably because DDS has the most experience working with people with autism.

Parent concern: I haven't been able to find the proper services for my 19 year old son in Connecticut. I am in a stand still and don't know what else to do.

Marcy Kane: How do we build capacity in local areas? That is really what it is all about. How do families access that central point?

Cara Westcott: It is about building capacity at the local level. We need to train our providers in working with kids on the spectrum.

Amy O'connor: We should have more discussion of concrete steps. I would try to engage advocacy groups.

Doriana Vicedomini: Possibility of a state summit for additional discussion. Often times we have been the catalyst of a new program. A formal format would be great to share those great ideas that are working would be a way to quickly move this forward.

Motion:

Recommendation to put together an Ad-Hoc committee together and would involve the help of a Connecticut Autism Coalition (CAC) member. Doriana Vicedomini will be co-chair of the Committee (CAC member). Voted on and approved at 11:38AM.

****A list will be passed out for anyone who is interested.***

Committee Reports:

Nominations Committee

Marcy Kane/ VACANT

- One applicant is in consideration

Mental Health Block Grant

Peggy Ayer/ Karen Smith

- Next month Marilyn Cloud will do a full presentation of the Block Grant.

Local System of Care & Behavioral Health Services – BHP Interface

Hal Gibber/ Marcy Kane/ Tabor Napiello

- Next Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Friday September 17th from 9-12 at Merritt Hall (CVH). At our next quarterly the superintendent of Riverview, Joyce Welch, would like to speak to us about Riverview services. Cara Westcott will temporarily co-chair with Hal Gibber during Tabor Napiello's maternity leave. Please check with your collaboratives that all surveys are completed.

George McDonald:

**** Housekeeping rule for the Merritt Hall Auditorium- please don't take food inside the auditorium as food is becoming an issue. Make sure that you pick up after yourself.***

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Practice Standards

Scott Newgass/ Debbie McCusker

No recommendations

Multiculturalism

Mary Held/ VACANT

Transformation Youth

George McDonald/ Amy O'conner/ Neil Quatrano

George McDonald: Tim and I have been collaborating regarding family involvement within the contexts of transitioning youth. Families are not feeling as involved as they should.

Announcements:

Dave Tompkins: We will e-mail Molly Cole with recommendations and we will take recommendations to State Advisory Meetings.

- ***Next CBHAC meeting will be July 9th - meeting will be a full meeting***
 - ***August will be a working meeting***

****Orientation is available every month at 9:30am before the CBHAC meeting at the cafeteria***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Lorena Emanuel