

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**March 3, 2008**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Virginia Del Monaco (co-chair), Dr. Irv Jennings (co-chair), Susan Hamilton, Fernando Muniz, Joseph Marino, Barbara Ellison, Dr. Michael Lustick, Genevieve Stuart, Molly Cole, Barbara Sheldon, Pamela Trotman, Catherine Holahan, Lorna Grivois and Pamela Brisette-Campbell

**Others Attending:** Rudy Brooks and Laurie Landry

**Members Absent:** Maureen Price-Boreland

**Bureau of Prevention & External Affairs:**

Bureau Chief Rudy Brooks gave a presentation on the activities of his bureau. Please see attached handouts for in-depth details. (Please note: SAC members who were present at the meeting will not receive additional copies of handouts with the mailed minutes.)

The Bureau of Prevention & External Affairs is comprised of the following divisions: Government Affairs & Regulations, Public Relations, Ombudsman, Prevention, Early Intervention and Research.

The Ombudsman Unit has shown a large increase in the services they provide to clients and their families. This increase can be credited to the expansion of the unit and their ability to work in AOs, Facilities and DOC locations. The bureau has been utilizing a computer program to track and integrate data in order to produce required reports in a timely manner. The high number of incidents has overwhelmed the system and Rudy's staff will be working with the DCF Information Systems to upgrade to a program better suited to the Bureau's needs. Molly Cole suggested that Rudy try a data base that her organization uses that might fit the needs. Every 6 weeks Rudy and his staff meet with DCF Area Directors, the Office of the Child Advocate and other internal staff. The meetings are not case specific; they are more about the system as a whole.

**Prevention Highlights:**

- ❖ Shaken Baby Prevention w/DOC, DSS, DPH, OCA and the Children's Trust Fund.
- ❖ Have a Safe Summer - Water & Window Safety

**Early Intervention Highlights:**

- ❖ Working with Head Start on protocols for referrals
- ❖ Working toward having Head Start involvement with all DCF children ages 0-6.

**Government Affairs & Regulations**

- ❖ A detailed list of 2008 Legislative Proposals was included in Rudy's handout.

## Public Relations

- ❖ This division is producing many positive stories on Children, Families and Workers.

## Special Review

- ❖ Dr. Michael Schultz works with the Child Welfare League of American, Area Office Staff and members of other Bureaus in cases of child fatality.

## **SAC List Serve:**

Molly Cole will co-ordinate utilizing a List Serve on Yahoo to better communication with SAC members and to also archive information.

## **Department utilization of child psychiatrists:**

Commissioner Hamilton asked that this discussion be tabled until the next meeting. The topic is an agenda item for the April meeting, Dr. Mendelson and/or Dr. Williams will be present for this discussion.

## **Bill 174:**

The deadline for this bill had not yet come up. DCF supports integrating CBHAC and SAC. There was discussion on the possible perceived conflict of interest with CBHAC and the Mental Health Block Grant. This discussion will also be placed on the April agenda.

## **Other Business:**

Stacey Gerber has been named Bureau Chief of Child Welfare. DCF is recruiting for a new Director of Foster Care. There may be more organizational changes in the future, but at this time there are no other structural changes.

There was a 2 day leadership retreat to discuss the strategic plan for DCF. The Commissioner would like to have the plan finalized by July 1, 2008.

DCF will be reviewed by the CFSR in September 2008. 65 random cases will be reviewed on safety, permanency and well-being. Once the review is completed an update will be given to the SAC. DCF will be holding internal random reviews in 4 area offices to prep for the formal review.

## **Next Meeting:**

April 7, 2008  
**9:00-12:00 a.m. (Please note the time extension)**  
CAFAP Office  
2189 Silas Deane Highway  
Rocky Hill, Connecticut