

Connecticut Family Support Council  
Monthly Meeting  
April 8, 2010

Place: DDS Wallingford with call-in option

Facilitator: Co-chairs Karen Hlavac and Robyn Trowbridge

Recorder: Moira O'Neill

Participants:

Voting Members: Law, J., O'Neill M., Reddington, K., Trowbridge, R., Tremblay, M., Jen Carrol(call-in), Lisa Shepard (Call in), Arpil Dipollina(call-in),, Alice Butwell(call-in), Hlavac, K., Kathleen Bradlee, Colleen Hayles, Mona Trembley, Tesha Imperati, Mary Beth Bruder (call in), Karen Zrenda

Guests: Julian Trembley, Peter Szruba, Maureen Smith

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Karen Hlavac at 10:07a.m.

2. Public Comment:

Julian Trembley – Shared that he attended the breakfast at the Legislative Office Building.

3. Approval of the minutes – Motion to accept the February 2010 minutes by Joan Law seconded by April.

Discussion:

- Reddington: FSC Survey Section – she did not recall asking that all communications go through the DDS. She asked that documents on FSC letterhead should come back to the FSC before being distributed to public for approval.

Discussion – Members discussed need to develop protocols for going public with documents, projects, or any representation on behalf of Council. Determine approval process (urgent meeting, electronic voting, prior-approval, executive committee approval, etc.)

Also, commissioners of agencies implicated in things like surveys should be noticed to allow chance to respond for the record. In the meantime, suggestion to send annual report and survey to Commissioner of DDS now to allow for response in retrospect. The mailing list needs to be adjusted to include commissioners so they get these notices or just the bigger issues.

Follow-up – Karen H and Robin T will send survey and letter with request for response to Commissioner O'Meara.

- O'Neill – Public Comment section has C. Adamcyck describing programs without identifying her group. She represents The A.J. Papanikou Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities.

All in Favor approval of minutes with corrections, None opposed, Motion carried.

#### 4. FSC Statute / Guidelines

Reddington – request to adjust language to reflect DDS vs DMR

O’Neill – requests statute be posted on website – Correction, Alice said it already is under resources

Discussion –

Focus on actions words in statute Part B – the Council Shall: assist, promote, identify, establish. And in Article 3 of by-laws: responsibilities under statute – gather, develop, review, monitor, report, advocate. These actions are all in relation to family support guidelines

Consider re-visiting the definition of family support to understand the obligations of the FSC. Agree to start at ground level and determine what we need to be doing and have a clear vision of where we are going in order to develop clear message.

Two issues: vision for council and what we define as family support programs

Consider each person thinking about it and writing about it and then put together, see where people are....

Do we need the word programs? Because family support should be included in all programming.

Historically family support didn’t exist so as the concept and service evolves.

Do we talk program/services language or look at needs of families?

Is the role of the Council to govern, oversee, or to stand for certain standards?

Where does the vision statement fall within this?

Look at vision statment, mission and compare to statute obligations and determine whether things are connecting and how to achieve vision. Do guidelines still represent vision? A process of re-examination would also help to clarify obligations of state agencies to the FSC.

This is timely activity because of budget crisis and potential for loss of supports. Need to get word out about FSC/FSN as a resource.

Are the FSC guidelines guidelines? underlying beliefs? or principles?

Action:

- Review minutes from previous retreat that examined these issues at Hole in the Wall Gang Camp that could be useful to address these concerns.
- Need to have a retreat to answer all these questions
- Each member review and comment on original notes from past retreat
- Each member comment on his or her role and what he/she think other’s roles are.
- Meeting with commissioners...bringing the FSC info to them and getting their understandings from them.
- Engage commissioners in integrating family support visions, and guidelines in practice throughout agencies
- Develop, nurture partnerships

- Timing in re engaging commissioners: Wait until after this discussion is more along. Consider sending a letter to let ALL members know this process as beginning to raise awareness at leadership level.

To do:

- Get the notes from past retreat – Karen Z will disseminate
- Members will review the family support guidelines and enter comments describing what their definitions are, what that means to them and their agency (if an agency representative)
- Send comments to Joan Law for compilation
- Moira will draft letter to members announcing process
- Members are asked to think about what committees should be and whether they want to participate on a committee. Committee to compile feedback and comments and begin to develop renewed approach to FSC participation.
- Goal is to revisit guidelines

5. Committee Evaluation Instrument – tabled

6. General Business –

Discussion in re TBI project/DSS Grant. Sylvia G. sent a document that indicates a transfer of money, which is unclear. And it is unclear about FSC authority to process funding.

Discussion in re FSC obligations/authority and logistics. Robin Trowbridge will contact Sylvia at DSS to determine details of payments, etc.

Robin Trowbridge reported on recent activities of TBI partner meetings and Chris Sloss is developing content for brochures. Products that Chris Sloss produces under the DSS grant may be distributed by FSN

Grant for FSC from DD Council is exhausted so FSC has no funding for staff Chris Sloss any longer. FSN has funding for paying Chris Sloss to maintain website.

7. Family Support Network/Agency updates –

Updates have been submitted in advance to Chris Sloss

SDE: there is a new consultant in the Bureau of Special Ed.: Marcus Rivera, and another is coming shortly. Consultants are now assigned to specific districts. Bureau Bulletin will have all updates to changes at the Bureau.

FSN will consolidate the updates to one E-mail.

Mona is taking a full time position next Monday at Generations Family Health Care, but will be keeping her seat on the FSC.

Fliers handed out for Dental Home

8. Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 12:04 noon– by Karen Zrenda, seconded by Mona Trembley, Unanimous approval of the motion.