

CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL



Meeting Place: A. J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
University of Connecticut Health Center

December 9, 2010

Minutes

Present: Robyn Trowbridge, Co-Chair, Lisa Sheppard, Co-Chair, Evelyn McDonald, Margaret Cohan, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Cathy Adamczyk, Tom Brooks, Jeanne Milstein, Colleen Hayles, Jennifer Carroll, Terry Cote, Ann Gionet, Tesha Imperati

Phone: Kathy Bradley, April Dipollina, Alice Butwell

Guests: Hal Gibber (FAVOR), Karen Zrenda (YALE), Laura Kern (visitor/parent)

Call to Order- Robyn Trowbridge, Co-Chair, Lisa Sheppard Co-Chair

Approval of November Minutes

Vote: Motion to accept minutes from November meeting as amended: Terry Cote. Seconded by: Jennifer Carroll. Motion passed with seven abstentions. (Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Jeanne Milstein, Tom Brooks, April Dipollina, Evelyn McDonald, Alice Butwell, Ann Gionet)

Amended November minutes- Margaret Cohan clarified that the DD Council is sending a letter to the Governor to request an expedited hearing with the Department of Transportation; the DD Council is not perusing a grant.

Council Operational Issues

Robyn Trowbridge and Jennifer Carroll met with DDS legislative liaison Rod O'Conner to discuss a series of questions regarding Council operational issues. Co-Chairs shared that Council members would need to be physically present to vote. Mr. O'Conner stated that statutes are fixed and difficult to change but that changes can be made to both:

- 1) Council by-laws and
- 2) Council policy and practices.

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VOTE: Motion to create a Council policy/procedure Sub-committee and a /by-law subcommittee to review existing bylaws, policies and to develop a process for which the Council can take a position on the following; legislation, regulation, policy, practices, proposals, and grant applications: Jeanne Milstein. Seconded by: Colleen Hayles. Motion passed.

Discussion: Regarding the phone in option for meetings and the specific issue of voting, based on current recommendations, this is not going to be permitted in the future. The topic of continuing the phone-in option will be further discussed at the next meeting. Further research will be done into various other technologies to be used for meeting participation and/or voting.

Discussion: Practices specific to the Council Co-chairs' scope of authority was discussed, as it relates to the issuing of formal letters of support and/or correspondence from the Council inclusive of Council chairs providing legislative testimony on behalf of Partners and/or on matters of interest to the Council. The bi-laws committee will provide recommendations on best practice in these areas.

General Business

Cathy Adamczyk was asking Council members if anyone had materials from the 1st Annual Agencies and Families Leading Self-Determined Lives Conference to please share the materials. The materials would /should be included in the Road Map.

Discussion: Jennifer Carroll and Ann Gionet presented information specific to the renewal of their application for the CT Family-to-Family Health Information Network grant. The CT Family Support Council has functioned within the management team of this grant since its inception and it was requested that the Council be named on the renewal application as a continuing partner. It is requested that a representative of the Council remain involved as a member of the management team of this grant in the future. A formal letter from the Council was requested to be submitted with the grant application.

Vote: Letter of support for the CT Family-to-Family Health Information Network application and for the Family Support Council to remain on the Management Team as a grant partner: Jeanne Milstein. Seconded by: Terry Cote. Motion passed with five abstentions. (Jennifer Carroll, Tom Brooks, Cathy Adamczyk, Lisa Sheppard, Ann Gionet)

Alice Butwell, as a long time Council member, voiced concern over not being able to fully participate by phone, particularly in light of travel hardships that exist at times for parent members. Ms. Butwell suggested that Council meetings should move to various areas of the state if members will not be able to vote by phone. The Council Co-chairs remain committed to

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full participation of members and recognize the importance of each member of the Council. To that end, efforts will be made to identify alternative meeting locations throughout the State to facilitate parent member presence at Council meetings. This decision was supported by those members present for the discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Recorded by: Ann Gionet, Department of Public Health, December 9, 2010

Submitted by:

Lisa Sheppard Co-Chair

Robyn Trowbridge Co-Chair