

Connecticut Family Support Council
Monthly Meeting
February 11, 2010

Place: DDS Wallingford with call-in option

Time: 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.,

Facilitator: Co-chair Karen Hlavac

Recorder: Chris Sloss

Participants:

Voting Members: Bruder, M (call-in), Butwell, A. (call-in), Carroll, J. (call-in), Dipollina, A (call-in), Jackson, M. (call-in), Gionet, A. (call-in), Hlavac, K., Reddington, K., Sheppard, L., Trowbridge, R., Tremblay, M (call-in),

Guests: Harris, S. (call-in), Cote, T. (call-in) Imperati, T., Sloss, C.

Call to Order 10:15 am – Meeting called to order by Karen Hlavac at 10:15a.m.

Public Comment: none

Approval of the minutes – Motion to accept the January 2010 minutes with typographical changes by R. Trowbridge. seconded by K. Reddington All in Favor, None opposed, Motion carried.

Corrections:

Page 3 Jen C's update - add a "t" to Hartford

Page 3 Alice B's update – add space between a new, and add an "i" before the "s" to spell "is"

Page 3 DDS update - "C" should be changed to a "K" in Kathy Reddington's name.

Page 4. Virginia P's update – UCONN should be all caps.

Office of the child Advocate (Faith Vos Winkle): Date conflict for our speaker, will table to another month.

Legislative Meet & Greet (March 3rd 9-10:30)

Event to begin promptly at 9am, please try to arrive by 8 to help with set up. We still need volunteers to bring plates, napkins, fruit, tablecloths, boxes of joe with cream & sugar

Stories for the packets for the Meet and Greet have been submitted for review. Several folks are willing to speak, however, due to time constraints we will not have time for all. We need to be sure we don't have more than one person speaking on the same subject.

A. Buttwell's region (1) story, K. Zrenda (1) Family from Yale, AFCAMP (2) stories to share, M. Tremblay has several stories, T. Imperati's region (1) story, L. Sheppard's region (1) story. J. Carroll has (2) stories, Brita has (1) story. A. Dipollina's region (1) story

Suggestion for next year: K. Reddington shared that DDS has the ability to do webcasts. (check out the video's on their website under video library) Over the course of the next year we can create webcasts of families we work with. This will allow their story to be shared without the commitment to drive to Hartford. Webcasts are produced at UCONN and can be added to the DDS website as well as our own. A. Gionet added that this media allows you to send this to legislators throughout the year which is a nice benefit.

Annual report for the packets: T. Cote asked for a one page summary of talking points that outlines what families are saying this year. She will add this to the report. (1) Families are in crisis, their needs are more critical than ever. Basic issues around income and housing are now in addition to the cries for help in trying to care for their children who have disabilities. (2) Preservation of the programs that are left is of critical importance! DO NOT CUT family support programs further. We are not asking for extra this year, we are asking that they please make sure to help us keep families in tact by retaining programs currently in place.

Front table at the Meet & Greet : Rod O'Connor with DDS offered to assist us as a greeter to help introduce senators, representatives, and commissioners who stop by. C Sloss needs a list of any families who might be attending and the name of their reps. to make it easier for folks manning the front table. We still need other volunteers to help out at the front table. (Some FSN folks?)

Family Survey – Tabled to next month for an update

General Business

TBI Training – C. Sloss, K. Zrenda, T. Brooks, & R. Trowbridge attended the training that DDS sponsored at the Capitol. The three partners who will participate in the grant are the Commission on Children, members from the Fatherhood Initiative and the FSC. The morning block of the training was with a professor who specializes in neuro function and then S. Gafford-Alexander discussed brain development and the indicators of TBI. Plan for the project: T. Brooks will put together a legislative forum around the issue of TBI and Children. Each of the three partners will be expected to have representation. Tom will

generate a brief following the forum that speaks to issues about where we will go from here and what are the best practices for CT to consider. The Fatherhood Initiative is interested in partnering with us long term. They do a lot of outreach to dads specifically around positive parenting techniques. They are statewide as well. Our piece is specifically related to outreach and education on TBI for kids. We will research important information regarding TBI and children and develop a brochure with the assistance of the UCONN graphic design team. R. Trowbridge & K Reddington offered to provide feedback to C Sloss about what information should go into the brochure as it is gathered.

R. Trowbridge made a motion that the FSC will enter into an agreement with DSS to function as one of three partners working on a project designed to focus on issues relating to traumatic brain injuries and children. Motion seconded by K. Reddington, All in favor, None opposed, M. Jackson abstained. Motion carried.

FSN & Agency updates – C. Sloss will forward updates via email since many folks were not able to attend today's meeting in person.

Motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.– by R. Trowbridge, seconded by K. Reddington.
Unanimous