

Connecticut Family Support Council  
 Monthly Meeting  
 May 13, 2010

Place: DDS East Hartford with call-in option

Facilitator: Co-chair Karen Hlavac

Recorder: Moira O'Neill

Participants:

Voting Members: Law, J., Milstein, J., Reddington, K., Tremblay, M., J. Carroll, L. Shepard (call in), A. Butwell (call-in), Hlavac, K. (Co-chair), C. Hayles, M. Tremblay, K. Zrenda, A. Dippolina, L. Knapp, M. Jackson, S. Gaffert-Alexander, M.B. Broder (call-in), T. Imperati (call-in)

Other Participants: Brooks, R. (DCF), O'Neill, M. (OCA) (Secretary), Ghio, C., McDonald, E., Pagano, D. (Call in), Brooks, T., Adamcyck, K (call-in), Sloss, C., Cote, T.

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Karen Hlavac at 10:00a.m.

2. Public Comment

- Reviewed list of voting members. Only voting members and their official designees will be noticed on meetings, etc. all general meeting information will be posted to the DDS website
- FOI requests are referred to DDS Commissioner.

3. Approval of the minutes to April 8, 2010

Motion to Accept – Jen Carroll

Second – April Dipollina

Corrections –

- Mona is listed twice as a participant and correct spelling of her last name is Tremblay.
- Correct spelling for Kathleen Bradlee is Bradley.
- Under FSN updates, Mona is keeping her seat on FSC and duties of FSN with some additional hire for the Northeast region.
- Under discussion regarding survey and DDS commissioner it should read Karen Hlavac “and/or” Robin Trowbridge would follow up with Commissioner O’Meara. And she would discuss further his comments.

Vote - No opposed – Motion carried, Meeting minutes are accepted as corrected

4. Approval of Special meeting minutes of April 29, 2010

Motion to accept – Karen Zrenda

Second – Kathy Reddington

Comment – it was noted/reminded that all meetings should be called and noticed appropriately.

Second paragraph under TBI Grant, last word: change Councils to Council il’s

Vote - No opposed – Motion carried, Meeting minutes are accepted

## 5. FSC Statute Review

### Discussion –

- Jeanne Milstein, one of the last original members of the FSC spoke about the history of the FSC, future budget concerns, and challenges ahead. Suggested a celebration of family support honoring the founders of the FSC and other leading figures in family support.
- The FSC statute sunsets in 3 years which means it may cease to exist. The FSC may be expected to show that the spirit of the statute has not only been followed but that there has been an impact. That would require reporting activities and accomplishments and showing support of families and advocates in the community.
- Clarifying purpose would also require re-visiting the meaning of family support.
- Reviewed meaning of results based accountability (RBA). Discussed applying it to FSC: what has FSC done to promote family support practices in agencies? Discussed reviewing RBA reports from each agency
- Discussed excerpt from statute that mandates assisting with developing a, “comprehensive, coordinated system of family support services...”
- Concerns families are still saying things are fragmented and challenging...
- Need for engaging agency leadership, hold them accountable
- Before accountability, must tell them what you need. Educate them about children with special health care needs. Needs assessment among families, inventory of services offered, role for agencies in bridging gaps
- Need a continual re-education process to keep leaders informed when there is turnover
- Identify accomplishments and gaps among agencies. What has been missed?
- Determine connections for communication and partnerships
- Idea: Roundtable of commissioners
- Noted – needs assessments have been done but FSN and individuals have attempted to address those needs rather than whole system responding which would be more effective and lasting. Clarification of diaper benefit was given as an example. On the subject of diapers, DCF lost funding for diapers in budget. Suggestion: Consider establishing a means to alert agencies of these kind of problems to address/ improve communication.
- Family needs must be document and accomplishments of the FSC documented and then people will pay attention to the FSC with that record present. Problem: Need staff to document.
- Educating leaders at local level is effective. Larger impact, longer lasting
- Need to share data in form that has meaning and need to provide solutions when informing about needs.

### Plan -

- A) 4 working groups formed to position FSC to move forward:

#### Statute Review Group –

This working group will review the enabling statute for the FSC, Conn. Gen State Sec. 17a-219c, and propose an interpretation of the purpose and any and all responsibilities of the Council accordingly.

Group Leader: Kathy Reddington

Working Group : Moira O’Neill, Merva Jackson, April Dipollina, Tom Brooks, Christina Ghio, Terry Cote, Alice Buttwell.

#### Individual Member Role Group –

This working group may consult the Statute Review Group, the statute, the notes from the 2002 FSC Retreat and any other resources they see fit to propose and outline the responsibilities of individual members of the FSC. By

individual we mean each politically appointed family member or advocate and each statutorily mandated agency member and designee.

Group Leader: Karen Zrenda

Working Group: Joan Law, Moira O'Neill, Mary Beth Broder, Tesha Imperati, Jen Carroll

FSC Accomplishments Group –

This working group will review the history of the FSC; interview past members; review annual reports and event documents, and utilize any other available sources that captured FSC accomplishments over the years. The purpose will be to compile a history of activities and accomplishments that will illustrate the purpose and effectiveness of the FSC and the potential for the FSC to be a meaningful resource to the state of Connecticut.

Group Leader: Terry Cote

Working Group: Karen Zrenda, Chris Sloss

Family Needs and Solutions Group –

This working group will review all prior and current available reports and records of FSC and other-sourced family needs assessments or surveys as well as any other sources of information about the needs of Connecticut families raising children with disabilities and or complex medical conditions. This review may also include assessments of work force capacity, access to funding or any other issues that may impede families from caring for their children. In addition to reporting identified needs, this group will also research and report identified or proposed solutions to unmet needs that may be useful to policymakers and program administrators.

Group Leader: April Dipollina

Working Group: Mona Trembaly, Karen Hlavec, Kathy Bradley, Chris Sloss, Laura Knapp, Collen Hayles, Eveleen McDonald, Lisa Shepard, Kathy Adamcyk

Moira will send out list and additional people may sign on (DONE 5/14/10).

Also Moira will send out info in re on-line meeting scheduling.

- B) Have monthly standing agenda item: update of working groups' product, action steps and identification of problems.
- C) Challenge: identify catch phrase for FSC work – capture sense of “mobilization”

## 6. FSC Guidelines

Not discussed specifically

## 7. General Business

DDS Commissioner is in receipt of annual report and survey. Gave good feedback. Copy of *Direct to Families* newsletter with DDS service information was circulated showing the information that is being shared. The information was included as a result of the feedback from the survey.

## 8. Julie Beckett Visit –

The A J Papaniko Center is bringing Julie Becket, family advocate and mother of the child for whom the Katie Beckett waiver was named, here for a DD Network community forum on health care reform for people with disabilities and the role of the waivers. She will be coming in the summer after June. Suggestion to bring her to provide inspirational talk/guidance to the FSC

Discussion –

- FSC needs to be done its evaluative work before bringing in someone.
- If FSC co-sponsors an event as suggested, members need to be part of the event planning.

- Also September 21 Ann Turnball will visit Papaniko Center on another issue- no topic determined yet, Family Support movement possibly. Could consider bringing Julie back then for an event
- No decision was offered or made on this subject

#### 9. TBI Grant update

The brochure has been changed. Chris will send out a new copy as soon as she has it. It will need approval from the FSC before going to print and distribution. They are planning a forum the week of June 8, 9, 10 or the following week. They have speakers in mind – availability will guide date, etc. Plans will be out by next Monday.

#### 10. Future meeting locations

Meetings will continue on DDS properties with attempts to balance between East Hartford, Wallingford and a trial date at New Haven offices.

#### 11. Agency and other Updates

- Monthly updates of events, programs or policy changes should be forwarded to Moira for compilation and distribution. Send them to [moira.oneill@ct.gov](mailto:moira.oneill@ct.gov)
- SDE – Bureau Bulletin out this week – issues covered include disproportionality, SRBI and SRBI in relation to the special education referral process. Focused monitoring, transition and writing post-secondary outcome goals.
- Colleen passed out consultant assignments by town. SDE will have 4 new consultants.
- Next year the Parent work group will focus on looking at and revising parent survey. All results are on the website.
- SDE is going back to court in June on the PJ settlement

#### 12. Motion to adjourn – Laura Knapp 12:00

Seconded by Mona Tremblay

All approved. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted: Moira O'Neill