



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2014

- Location:** Department of Developmental Services, East Hartford Office
- In attendance:** Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Lisa Sheppard, Robin Wood
- By phone:** Sharon Dexler, April Dipollina, Karen Hlavac, Marcus Rivera
- Absent:** Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez, Mona Tremblay, Robyn Trowbridge, Renee Toper
- Call to Order:** 10:18 am
- Public Comment:** None

Approval of September Minutes - Lisa Sheppard made a motion and Robin Wood seconded the motion to accept the September minutes as written with the addition of the DDS intern's name as guest. The minutes were approved by Council membership.

Announcements

Karen Hlavac announced that the Wallingford Public Schools are hosting a forum on transition and other community services. It is being held on October 28 at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford from 6-9 pm. A number of agencies are already planning to set up tables at this event.

Robin Wood wanted to remind Council members that there is a Legislative Forum regarding disability issues today at Manchester Community College from 2:30 -6:30.

Robin Wood also announced that next year - on October 2, 2015 - the Council on Developmental Disabilities, along with other partners, will be hosting a large family conference.

Sylvia Gafford-Alexander announced an October 24, 2014 Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership event with Dr. Troutman speaking. It will be held at the Lincoln Culinary Institute and since registration may be full, anyone interested should contact Sylvia directly.

Sara Lourie handed out Governor Malloy's press release regarding the Children's Behavioral Health Plan and immediate action to address youth behavioral health needs. There are a number of

initiatives that will be given immediate funding. The press release will be sent via email to full Council membership.

April Dipollina announced that the Governor has indicated that the old Seaside Residential Center is to become a public park. This is located very close to the Harkness Memorial Park.

Ann Gionet wanted to let Council members know of the Governor's Executive Order regarding the Commissioner of Public Health oversight in an Ebola emergency. This provides statewide leadership to address this issue and assure consistent implementation of CDC, national and state policy.

Robin Wood announced the family advocacy meeting with the DDS Commissioner on November 7; they are expecting at least 25 different family advocacy organizations will participate. She indicated that state agencies legislative staff was invited and the Family Support Council should be represented at this event. Lisa Sheppard has agreed to attend.

Old Business

Brochure/Membership materials - Ann Gionet continues to work with the publications office to prepare a draft in brochure format. She will send out a draft to workgroup members (Linda, April) and the Executive Committee as soon as it is available for an initial review.

Membership - The Governor's Office requested an update around Council membership because there are two new member applications in process. There are a number of other potential members that have been identified among participants in the Parent Leadership Training Initiative and from Partners in Policy Making. It was reiterated that both age and cultural diversity should be a priority.

There was discussion about how to identify potential members among the Latino community; Marcus Rivera indicated that there are numerous commissions and committees also looking to recruit diverse membership. Both Marcus and Sylvia Gafford-Alexander have ideas for contacts and will reach out to them for ideas and possible interest.

Anyone who identifies a potential member is asked to notify Lisa Sheppard and Mona Tremblay who will, in turn, forward this information to Robin Wood at DDS; this is needed to assure that the DDS Legislative Liaison staff is aware - particularly if an individual is going to contact one of the appointing authorities.

In follow-up to the discussion about developing a vetting process, Marcus Rivera may have a written process he can share with Lisa Sheppard and Lisa will draft some language for review and discussion; the question of whether the membership process needs to be revised in the Bylaws was also mentioned and Lisa will be checking with DDS about this.

Robin Wood is trying to pull together copies of the appointment letters and also a current list of members with appointing authority and terms.

Retreat Follow-up - Linda Mizzi raised the issue of transition out of high school which was discussed at the Retreat. Members noted a lot of different projects and initiatives in this area and the need for communication and collaboration.

New Business

Focus for the Coming Year - It is clear that the brochure, membership process and recruitment of new members are major areas of focus for the next few meetings and/or until there is sufficient resolution. Other areas of focus will continue to be on the agenda for future meetings as well.

Video Conferencing - At the present time, members have not been requesting to use the video conferencing although a number of people have been calling in by phone. Members agreed that this is still an important option particularly as more members join from various parts of the state. So, this will continue to be available as membership grows. Robin Wood reminded folks that she needs a minimum of a week's notice to set this up and it is more of an issue in the smaller offices where staff availability may be a limiting factor.

Adjournment: Sara Lourie made a motion to adjourn and Ann Gionet seconded it; the meeting was adjourned at 12:06.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary