



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014

Location: Department of Developmental Services, East Hartford Office

In attendance: April Dipollina, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood

By phone: Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Karen Hlavac, Lisa Sheppard, and Renee Topper

Absent: Sharon Dexler Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez, Marcus Rivera, Robyn Trowbridge

Call to Order: 10:10 am

Public Comment: None

Approval of November Minutes - One addition was made to the minutes and Ann Gionet moved and Karen Hlavac seconded the motion to accept the minutes as revised. The minutes were approved as revised by Council membership.

Guest Speaker – Siobhan Morgan, DDS Waiver Services Director joined the meeting to present on the Universal Assessment and No Wrong Door initiative. This is an interagency project designed to better integrate systems, improve access and efficiency in the provision of long term services and supports. The focus is initially on Medicaid Waiver services and assuring that no matter where an individual inquires about access to and eligibility for Waiver services, they are assessed using the same tool. A key feature of the initiative is that regardless of which participating agency an individual contacts (DDS, DSS, DMHAS), they won't need to repeat information already given to another agency in order to get services under a Medicaid Waiver. This will require coordination and information sharing across agencies which is complex and the area in which Council members had questions related to the safeguarding of confidential information. DSS is currently piloting a universal assessment tool, which was developed by the University of Connecticut, in its "Community First Choice" project which will allow, as part of the Medicaid state plan, for individuals to self-direct personal assistance services.

Announcements

Lisa Sheppard announced the exciting news that 3 new members were just appointed to the Council – Laurie Cantwell, Allison Quirion and Jody Santoro. There is at least one other potential appointment in process. There was some discussion about still needing to particularly focus on getting representation from the Northwest and Southwest parts of the state.

Robin Wood mentioned that for 2015 Council meetings, the available space at the DDS office in East Hartford does not allow for both phone and video-conferencing in the same room. The Council discussed moving the meetings and decided to return to meetings at Protection and Advocacy (thanks to Linda Mizzi for hosting) as long as there is phone conference capacity; the agreement was to continue to discuss tools to involve family members including video-conferencing.

Old Business

Brochure Update – The primary discussion around the brochure was how best to handle inclusion of contact information that can be kept current without requiring revision of the brochure each time there are changes. Robin Wood did check whether there was a way to utilize an email address or phone number at DDS, which is not possible for outside groups. The discussion turned to whether or not this could be put on the Family Support Council portion of the website, or create an email account that could be linked to the website. Robin will continue to discuss within DDS to determine options available. A revision of the draft brochure is in process.

New Business

Request from Connecticut Family Support Network – the CTFSN contacted the Co-Chairs to ask if the Family Support Council was interested in co-sponsoring a legislative event they are planning on January 28, 2015 at the Legislative Office Building. Their plan is to showcase parent leaders, congratulate the Governor and both new and continuing Legislators and they have asked Commissioner Macy to speak. It was clarified by the Council's Executive Committee that co-sponsorship is not required in order for them to be able to hold the event but given the short notice and time constraints that Council members have, it was not clear that co-sponsorship was possible. There are many positive reasons to collaborate on this type of event but also some concern expressed that Legislators could easily be confused about the Network and the Council and the different roles they have. One suggestion was the idea of being present but not necessarily co-sponsoring the event. There was not sufficient time to make a decision or hold a vote during the meeting so the Full Council will be polled outside of the meeting to determine if participation is possible.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary