



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2014

Location: Office of Protection and Advocacy

In attendance: Sharon Dexler, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Colleen Hayles, Karen Hlavac, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Robyn Trowbridge, Robin Wood, Wade Chartier

By phone: Ann Gionet, Steven Hernandez, Lisa Sheppard, Maureen Smith, Mona Tremblay

Excused Absence: April Dipollina, Mark Greenstein, Renee Toper

Call to Order: 10:06 am

Public Comment: None

Review of December Minutes

Several corrections were identified and Karen Hlavac made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Colleen Hayles seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted with corrections; with Robin Wood and Maureen Smith abstaining.

Announcements

Robin Wood announced a tentative date of February 10 for an adult sibling networking event to include Katie Arnold, who is the Executive Director of the National Sibling Leadership Network. Final information will be distributed when available.

Sara Lourie discussed the statewide TBI Advisory Board Coordination Subcommittee which has an interest in collaborating with the Family Support Council. They are looking for increased family membership but also want to reach out to other groups that have an interest in traumatic brain injury related issues. Sylvia Gafford-Alexander discussed the connection to veterans issue and there was also mention of the current focus on concussions, shaken baby and domestic violence. There is interest in exploring this collaboration further; Sara will provide additional information about the Board for review.

Old Business

It was confirmed that the Council will use the DDS teleconferencing option starting at the February meeting; the primary meeting location will be the DDS East Hartford office with teleconferencing availability in Putnam, Norwich and Wallingford DDS offices.

Robyn Trowbridge spoke with Mark Greenstein regarding his willingness to offer a presentation on developmental screening for the Council. He is very interested and will identify his availability so a special meeting can be scheduled.

New Business

Annual Report/Legislative Agenda - Robyn Trowbridge spoke with the individual who coordinates legislative events; March 13 was identified as an available date for the Council Legislative event. This would be held instead of the regular March Council meeting. March 20 should be held as an alternate.

To assure the annual report is available prior to that event, state agencies were asked to provide an electronic submission of what they want included no later than February 13, 2014. It was determined that the focus for these sections would be updates from last year's report, focus on one or two key programs or initiatives that the state agencies want to highlight; submissions should be no longer than 2 pages.

The Council discussed a variety of options for speakers, honorees and any specific legislators, community members, advocates, state officials or others to be invited. Karen Hlavac suggested that families be encouraged to outreach to their legislators – given the availability of the report and the legislative event - as a way to further raise awareness of family support issues. There was consensus that the Council should reach out to the new Disability liaison on the Governor's Cabinet; there was also discussion about making a connection with the new Early Childhood state agency.

Council members were asked to email Mona and Robyn with any specific ideas regarding speakers or honorees for the Legislative event.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary