



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2014

Location: Office of Protection and Advocacy

In attendance:, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Robin Wood

By phone: Sharon Dexler, April Dipollina, Ann Gionet, Karen Hlavac, Erin Lamb, Lisa Sheppard, Mona Tremblay, Renee Toper

Absent: Mark Greenstein, Colleen Hayles, Robyn Trowbridge, Steven Hernandez, Maureen Smith

Call to Order: 10:12 am

Public Comment: None

Review of January Minutes - See Old Business

Announcements

Robin Wood will email information about an event related to March being Disability Awareness Month. The National ARC is sponsoring a "get out in the community day."

Linda Mizzi announced a 3/19/14 conference in Cromwell called "A Place to Live that I can Call Home" for which registration closes as of the date of the Council meeting.

Sylvia Gafford-Alexander discussed DSS' community forums to solicit input around the reduction/elimination of health disparities. She will forward a flyer for the full Council and is asking members to distribute widely so they hear from providers, clients, and health and human services stakeholders across the state.

Sylvia also confirmed that the Katie Beckett Waiver has added 100 additional slots.

It was noted that April 3 is Autism Awareness Day and there will be an event at the Capitol.

It was announced that the April meeting will be held at Protection and Advocacy

Old Business

A number of Council members did attend the meeting in February but there was not a quorum and due to weather the meeting was cancelled.

The January minutes needed review and approval. Ann Gionet made a motion to approve and Robin Wood seconded the motion; Robin Wood and April Dipollina abstained. Minutes were approved as written.

New Business

Annual Report - The first draft of the annual report was completed by Robyn Trowbridge, who could not be at this meeting. A number of subcommittee members gave input; the revised draft was not available for review at today's meeting. There was discussion about areas of importance in considering report content which included:

1. Focusing on some positive initiatives and a suggestion that the creative housing initiative which April described at a prior meeting might be one of those things; April agreed to write something for potential inclusion in the report.
2. Another positive development is the increased slots in the Katie Beckett waiver.
3. How to address/report on the recommendations in the 2013 Annual Report; discussion about highlighting initiatives/projects which have occurred or are in process that specifically address these recommendations. State agency representatives were asked to draft something and send to Sara Lourie by April 3 and the Annual Report workgroup would meet between April 3 and April 10 to incorporate this in the document.
4. The third recommendation from last year - around services for individuals on the autism spectrum - was thought to be of significant importance to carry forward as a recommendation in the 2014 report.
5. Other items raised for potential recommendations came up around Assistive Technology and looking at health disparities.

During the discussion about the Annual Report it was raised that there had been a family survey done by the Council in 2010 and a number of newer members have not seen it. Lisa Sheppard and Sharon Dexler agreed to distribute the information they have to all Council members. In addition the "Road Map" developed by the Council will be re-distributed to make sure all new members are familiar with it as discussion goes forward about future goals and plans.

Legislative Breakfast/event

The legislative event that had been scheduled for March was cancelled and it was determined that it would not be scheduled this spring but might be appropriate to hold in the fall or at the beginning of the next legislative session. The Family Hearing Day at the Capitol was reported to have been quite well attended and there was sentiment that it might be difficult for families to commit to come back to the Capitol for another event within a short time frame. This discussion raised the issue of how and if the Council should partner with other family groups in the future. This will be added to a future agenda for more discussion.

Standing Agenda Items

Membership Recruitment - this remains a priority and the first step is to update the recruitment materials for wider distribution. Mona Tremblay has agreed to work on this.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary