



**CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 8, 2014**

- Location:** Department of Developmental Services, East Hartford Office
- In attendance:** Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Colleen Hayles, Karen Hlavac, Laura Knapp, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Robyn Trowbridge, Robin Wood
- By phone:** Sharon Dexler, April Dipollina, Lisa Sheppard, and Maureen Smith
- Teleconference:** Mona Tremblay
- Absent:** Mark Greenstein, Robyn Trowbridge, Steven Hernandez, Renee Toper
- Call to Order:** 10:13 am
- Public Comment:** None

**Review of April Minutes** - There was not a quorum for the April meeting.

**Announcements**

Linda Mizzi announced the June retirement of James McGaughey; the Executive Director for the Office of Protection and Advocacy (OPA).

**Old Business**

Distribution of Annual Report - Robyn Trowbridge publicly thanked OPA and numerous Council members who helped to produce the Connecticut Family Support Council Annual Report for 2014. The report was printed and distributed to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Jonathan Slifka and the General Assembly. Council members were given copies; Sara Lourie will hold on to some extras to use as needed and the electronic copy will be distributed to Council members and posted on the DDS website. There was discussion about how to have all reports "live" on the website vs. archived and Linda Mizzi volunteered to follow-up.

Karen Hlavac will also give a copy to the new Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (Myra Jones-Taylor) and in doing so will discuss possibility of their involvement with the Council. There are likely statutory implications particularly around adding an agency and this could be reviewed in the context of any other needed changes.

## **New Business**

Membership Recruitment - It was noted that there are currently 11 open Council seats, and there will be 14 by July, when Robyn Trowbridge, Karen Hlavac and Maureen Smith terms end. These slots are all for family members, consumers or advocates.

Members were reminded that reappointment is required when either an election occurs (even if the appointing authority continues) or if an appointing authority leaves office. Laura Knapp joined the meeting today as a guest and will hopefully be appointed soon as a Council member. Robyn Trowbridge offered to contact appointing authorities to let them know there are spaces on the Council.

Membership recruitment is a major priority. Finalizing draft recruitment materials is in process; Mona Tremblay has made some revisions and will send out to the Council for review and further distribution. Even though contact information will change, it was decided not to wait until the Annual meeting and election of officers because recruitment needs to start as soon as possible and the recruitment materials can be updated. Eventually, the Council may want a more professionally developed tri-fold recruitment brochure, but that may take some time and a decision was made not to delay sending out materials while that is being discussed further. It was also noted that it may be important to clarify the difference between the Family Support Network and the Council.

Some of the suggested forums for recruitment include: the Family Support Network, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCW), Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO) and other grass roots organizations. It was noted that the Council needs to be both culturally and geographically diverse.

Nominations Committee - July is the annual meeting and the election of officers. An ad hoc Nominations Committee is needed to develop a slate and volunteers are requested. The slate will be developed 30 days in advance of the July 10 annual meeting. Volunteers include Robin Wood and Sara Lourie.

## **Standing Agenda Items**

Linkage with other family groups - Robin Wood discussed a meeting held between DDS and community and family advocacy groups. The family members talked about not having a good feedback loop across the board and suggested that increased communication was needed. Ways the Council can assist in working with other family groups will be a continued discussion.

**Adjournment:** Sylvia Gafford-Alexander made a motion, seconded by Ann Gionet and the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary