



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2014

- Location:** Department of Developmental Services, East Hartford Office
- In attendance:** Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Laura Knapp, Sara Lourie, Linda Mizzi, Mona Tremblay, Robyn Trowbridge, Robin Wood
- By phone:** April Dipollina, Lisa Sheppard, Maureen Smith
- Absent:** Sharon Dexler, Mark Greenstein, Colleen Hayles, Karen Hlavac, Steven Hernandez, Renee Toper
- Call to Order:** 10:15 am
- Public Comment:** None

Approval of June Minutes - Robin Wood made a motion and Linda Mizzi seconded the motion to accept the June minutes as written with 2 minor typographical edits. The minutes were approved by Council membership with Ann Gionet, April Dipollina and Maureen Smith abstaining.

Announcements

Robin Wood announced a meeting on July 23, 2014 10-11 am at the DDS Central Office for families to provide feedback to Jonathan Slifka, the Governor's liaison to the disability community. There is also a second meeting of family group representatives with Commissioner Macy on July 29, 2014 at 6 pm at the Wallingford DDS office. This is open to family advocacy/support groups across disability types.

April Dipollina announced today's monthly meeting of the Creative Housing workgroup (7/10) and the speaker is the President of the Corporation for Independent Living. April also provided information about the Harkness Summerfest on July 26 from 3-7 pm and they are looking for volunteers. This is a fund raiser for Camp Harkness.

Linda Mizzi announced that the new Executive Director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy is Craig Henrici who started on July 1st.

Ann Gionet announced the Department of Public Health's recent RFP for the Connecticut Medical Home initiative looking for 5 sites for care coordination, a small RFP for community collaboratives and receipt of a 1 year extension to the HRSA autism grant.

Ann Gionet was congratulated because she is the new ACT Early Ambassador for 2 years.

Sara Lourie mentioned the ongoing initiative at DCF around the development of a comprehensive children's behavioral health plan which has involved a number of community and stakeholder forums and input. There has been a final report disseminated for the task force looking at the young adult transitioning population (ages 16-25) with mental health issues. Sara will send this out to the Council via email.

Sylvia Gafford-Alexander gave the address of the new DSS office on 55 Farmington Avenue in Hartford. She also discussed that DSS continues to work out the "kinks" in their new system to improve the toll free access, upgrades to the EMS system and an improved data collection project in partnership with UCONN Health Center. Mona provided feedback around continuing problems in trying to reach someone directly to address problems. Sylvia agreed to facilitate contact if there are urgent issues; she indicated there is a special unit to deal with emergency issues and she can help with access. Sylvia also mentioned that DSS is traveling to 7 sites looking for consumers of their services to provide feedback around elimination of health disparities.

Laura Knapp mentioned a new initiative at CCMC around enhanced mental health care; they are piloting a way to help keep children out of the hospital after they have completed emergency care. A licensed social worker is available to work with families.

Sylvia also announced the expansion of the Katie Beckett Waiver as well as the news that the "Care for Kids" program, which offers stipends for discounted child care for parents, will be moving to the Office of Early Childhood.

Old Business

Membership - Robin Wood has copies of the appointment letters which she will share with Mona Tremblay. There are 2 pending applications for membership. The updated written material/brochure is being worked on by Linda Mizzi with help from a Partners in Policy intern. There was discussion about printing options and information provided about the CT Judicial Branch's Commission on Official Legal Publications. Linda will send out a draft for review; it was recommended that everyone provide feedback as quickly as possible so this can be finalized soon. There was discussion about the role of the Council in recruitment vs. utilizing this as a tool to educate the public about the Family Support Council; the hope would be that this will help direct a family member/consumer or advocate who is interested in getting more involved.

New Business

Annual Elections - The official slate of officers for 2014-2015 was sent out to the membership prior to the meeting as required and included the following:

Co-Chairs: Lisa Sheppard
Mona Tremblay

Secretary: Sara Lourie

Robyn Trowbridge asked for nominations from the floor and there were none.

A motion was made by Robyn Trowbridge and seconded by Sylvia Gafford-Alexander to accept the nomination of Lisa and Mona for Co-Chairs. There was no additional discussion and a vote was taken of all members present (with Mona and Lisa abstaining) electing the new Co-Chairs of the Council as nominated. A separate motion was made by Robyn and Sylvia to accept the nomination of Sara Lourie for Secretary. There was no additional discussion and a vote was taken of all members present (with Sara abstaining) electing Sara as Secretary of the Council.

Annual Retreat

Robyn agreed to confirm that the Annual Retreat can be held at Camp Harkness on September 11 from 9 am to 2 pm. There was discussion about speakers and there was a lot of interest in asking Jonathan Slifka to come to address the group. Mona, Lisa and Robyn will identify some specific areas for him to address and Robyn agreed to reach out to him to ask if he is available. Additional Retreat planning will need to occur outside of the meeting.

Adjournment: Ann Gionet made a motion to adjourn and Sara Lourie seconded it; the meeting was adjourned at 12:01.

Minutes submitted by Sara Lourie, Secretary