

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Fatality Review Board
July 20, 2009

Present: Mr. James McGaughey, Attorney John DeMattia, Lieutenant David Rice, Dr. Gerard Kerins, Dr. Wayne Carver, Ms. Doreen McGrath and Mr. Peter Hughes, Ms. Anne Broadhurst and Ms. Barbara Roy, OPA staff. **Absent:** Ms. Patricia Mansfield and Ms. Christine Gaynor

1. Minutes of the May 11, 2009 FRB meeting were reviewed and accepted. It was noted that the next FRB meeting will be held on Monday, September 21st at the Virginie Grimes Center in New Haven.

2. Case Review Process

Mr. McGaughey noted that a large amount of material is forwarded to Board members for review. In order to avoid duplicating discussion of those cases reviewed by DDS, and to maximize the use the Board's meeting time, Mr. McGaughey proposed that a certain number of cases be pre-selected for in-depth discussion and review. Mr. McGaughey noted that, prior to the Board's next meeting; he will confer with Dr. Kerins and Ms. Mansfield and develop criteria for screening cases for the Board's review.

3. Governor's Legal Council

Mr. McGaughey noted that he is seeking to modify Executive Order #25 to expand the membership of the FRB to include a forensic pathologist (represented by the OCME); a physician to replace Dr. Bechtel; and a professional with a background in mental health who is also knowledgeable in the field of pharmacology. Mr. McGaughey asked Board members to provide him with suggestions of individuals representing these disciplines. Mr. McGaughey also noted that Major Timothy Palmbach is interested in returning to the Board, representing the field of higher education.

4. Correspondence

The Board reviewed and commented on a letter written by Dr. Richard Slutsky to David Carlow, in response to an inquiry made by the IMRB. Dr. Slutsky's letter generated much discussion regarding providing medical care to people who may be uncooperative or resistant. Dr. Kerins noted that he authored a study regarding the attitudes and practices of physicians providing care to people with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Kerins noted that the majority of doctors surveyed reported that they were willing to provide care to people with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Kerins noted that the study also found that issues affecting the ability of doctors to provide care included a lack of training pertaining to people with disabilities and more effective communication and exchange of information between people with disabilities, their doctors and their caretakers. Dr. Kerins also noted that the low level of financial compensation available through Medicaid was not consistently identified as a barrier to providing care. Regarding the individual seen by Dr. Slutsky in this particular case, Ms. Broadhurst stated that FRB staff are in the process of obtaining additional information regarding efforts undertaken by the private provider to support the individual in accessing medical care.

5. Executive Session

6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM, after which Board members were given a tour of the OCME by Dr. Carver.

The next FRB meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2009 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the Virginie Grimes Center in New Haven.