

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
Fatality Review Board  
March 21, 2012

**Present:** Mr. James McGaughey, Ms. Patricia Mansfield, Attorney John DeMattia, Dr. Gerard Kerins, Professor Timothy Palmbach, Lieutenant David Rice, Ms. Holly Olko, Ms. Doreen McGrath and Ms. Anne Broadhurst, Ms. Barbara Roy, Ms. Diana Macomber, and Mr. Peter Hughes (OPA staff).

1. The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 18, 2012 meeting. The minutes were approved and accepted.
2. Mr. McGaughey briefly summarized House Bill 5016, which proposes to consolidate a number of agencies, including the consolidation of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). Mr. McGaughey noted that the Bill proposes forming a new agency to be called the Department of Human Rights, Protection and Advocacy. Mr. McGaughey noted that on March 8, 2012, he provided testimony before the Appropriations Committee, outlining reasons why the proposed consolidation misconstrues the distinct roles of the two agencies, create conflicts of interest, and risks the loss of federal funds by changing its already established designation as an independent entity. Mr. McGaughey noted that a letter from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, which states its opposition to the proposed merger, was included with his testimony. It was also noted that this information is available on OPA's website.
3. Executive Session and Case Review
4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

**The next FRB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2012 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the Office of Protection and Advocacy in Hartford**