

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Fatality Review Board
September 19, 2012

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

1. Correspondence

- Mr. McGaughey summarized an extended inquiry completed by FRB staff concerning the death of a young woman supported by DMHAS, who died unexpectedly at the Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation, Inc. (FINR). A copy of the Board's inquiry was sent to the Commissioners of DDS and DMHAS, as both agencies currently have individuals placed there. Mr. McGaughey noted that the Board's inquiry raised concerns about the extent to which the safeguards available at FINR and through Florida's regulatory agencies are adequate to ensure the safety of individuals who reside there. Mr. McGaughey noted that a videotape had recently surfaced, which showed a client (who was placed at FINR by DDS) being repeatedly abused by FINR staff members. This videotape, along with questions and concerns raised as a result of the Board's extended inquiry, has prompted DDS to re-consider the purposes for which people are placed at FINR as opposed to developing suitable programming in CT.
- Mr. McGaughey summarized a letter sent to the Commissioners of DDS and DPH urging their Departments to develop an interagency training initiative in an effort to prevent future choking deaths of nursing home residents with developmental/intellectual disabilities. The letter suggested that the agencies build on a training curricula developed by DDS in response to similar choking incidents, which arose in DDS-funded residential programs prior to 2007. Mr. McGaughey noted that DPH and DDS have identified individuals to participate in a planning meeting, which will be scheduled shortly. Ms. McGrath, Mr. McGaughey, Dr. Kerins and FRB staff will participate.

2. Executive Session and Case Review

3. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

The next FRB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2012