

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Fatality Review Board
January 15, 2014

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

1. Board members expressed an interest further discussion and clarification of DDS policies and procedures and CT General Statutes related to end-of-life decision-making, including Advance Directives and Do Not Resuscitate Orders. It was agreed that information regarding this topic would be compiled and distributed to Board members in advance of the March 19th FRB meeting.
2. There was discussion surrounding the delayed reporting of deaths of DDS clients in skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Broadhurst noted that there were eighteen (18) incidences of late reporting of client deaths by skilled nursing facilities in 2013. This represents a marked increase in late notifications since the Board began tracking this information in 2008. The Board was interested in learning whether there is a federal requirement calling upon skilled nursing facilities to report client deaths. The Board also suggested that the facilities, which failed to notify DDS of client deaths in 2013 be surveyed as to why they did not report. Ms. Broadhurst will obtain additional information regarding possible federal reporting requirements and further discuss this issue with Mr. McGaughey prior to the next meeting.
3. The Board expressed an interest in meeting with the new Chief Medical Examiner, for purposes of introducing ourselves and for obtaining clarifying information regarding the OCME's criteria for asserting jurisdiction. The Board suggested using a recent death, which did not prompt further inquiry by the OCME, as an example of the Board's historical concern regarding the OCME's decision not to assert jurisdiction in certain cases involving people with intellectual disabilities.
4. Executive Session and Case Review
5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

The next FRB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th, 2014 at the Grimes Center in New Haven.