

PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 11:00 a.m. on July 9, 2008 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Corrie Morse, Susan Aranoff, Josefa Correa, and Dan Hunt

Absent: William Curtis Denton, Mark Griffin, Walt Wetmore, Carrie Czerwinski, Elizabeth Larsen, Sandy Chapman, and Selina Welborn,

Guest: Muriel Tomer

Staff: Susan Werboff, PAIMI Program Director, James McGaughey, Executive Director, Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director and Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Susan A., most senior Council member. There was no quorum present so the minutes could not be voted on.

OLD BUSINESS

NDRN

Susan W. presented that the PAIMI Council training at NDRN on June 2, 2008 went well. Overall the workshops were disappointing. Nancy Alisberg confirmed that this was a problem.

James McGaughey – Executive Director’s Report

- There has been a lot of publicity on the Charter Oak Plan and its availability now for uninsured residents. Parity of coverage apparently does not apply as it is not considered to be “commercial” insurance. Nevertheless, State non-discrimination laws should apply. OPA and lots of other agencies (CLRP, Arthritis Foundation, etc.) signed onto a letter to DSS Commissioner and a copy to the Governor. Discussion over what next steps could be taken by the various organizations involved.

- There is a new federal parity law. Not sure of the details.
- OPA (and all other state agencies) have been instructed to submit budgets reducing travel expenses by 10% by end of June 2008 and 25% by end of June 2009. This is a consideration for future Council meetings.
- OPA Advocacy Board meeting is August 21, 2008. PAIMI Council must hold its annual meeting before this date to provide the OPA board with its priorities by August 21, 2008.

Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney’s Report

- Bolmer case – Wrongful hospitalization case against DMHAS and Danbury. Briefs filed. Waiting for Judge’s decision.
- New Horizon’s Village – OPA filed a motion to add two new plaintiffs and a motion for contempt alleging that New Horizons is not complying with preliminary injunction.
- Choinski – OPA is discussing what, if anything, we will do after September 26, 2008, the last day of the settlement agreement. We need to ensure that the changes have been made and stay in place. So far Nancy A. has not been able to obtain a response from the Department of Correction.
- OPA v CT – Named plaintiffs have been identified but not finalized. Dates for meeting with the Judge are being finalized.

Susan Werboff – Program Director’s Report

- Distributed and reviewed restraint injury reports.
- R&S grant committee has ceased meeting with no further word from DMHAS.
- No PAIMI grievances received.

NEW BUSINESS

There was introduction of Muriel Tomer to the PAIMI Council. She gave her own personal history and that of her son who has a bipolar diagnosis. She has formed the non-profit program, CT Behavioral Outreach Inc., serving ages 17-65. She distributed business cards.

ADJOURNMENT

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2008 from 9:30 – 12:30 p.m. This will be the PAIMI Advisory Council Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Werboff

c: James McGaughey
Gretchen Knauff
Nancy Alisberg