

## **PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 11:00 a.m. on March 12, 2008 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Tracie Zavatsky, Susan Aranoff, Walt Wetmore, Carrie Czerwinski, Selina Welborn, Sandy Chapman

Absent: Josefa Correa (E) and William Curtis Denton (E)

Guests: Mark Griffin and Elizabeth Larsen

Staff: Susan Werboff, PAIMI Program Director, Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director  
James McGaughey, Executive Director – absent (E) and Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney – absent (E)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. The minutes were reviewed from the January 9, 2008 meeting. Everyone voted in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### James McGaughey – Executive Director's Report

- James McG. was absent due to testifying at the Capitol. Gretchen K. handed out his testimony. She reviewed the testimony.

Susan A. shared information regarding Bill 5449 – to add APRNs to issue a PEC. Additional language has been added that will expand the time persons are held against their will. See attached copy of the bill.

### Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney’s Report

Nancy A. was absent from the meeting. Susan W. read Nancy A. written report as follows:

- We have been severely hampered by the absence of Attorney Ajaz Fiazuddin who is off on an emergency leave. Paulette Annon is covering for him on the New Horizons case, but it is very hard for her to pick up this late in the game. She is working hard on getting up to speed.
- Bolmer – DMHAS and Danbury Hospital filed their summary judgment motions and briefs on January 18. We filed our responses to those briefs on February 22. The defendants reply briefs are due March 14. After that it is just a matter of waiting until the Judge decides, which will probably be a number of months. It is important to remember that the trial ready date is just an estimate. It does not mean we will be going to trial in September.
- New Horizons – We have been doing intensive depositions, including their deposition of James McGaughey. The briefing schedule for the summary judgment motions will be changing. We will be proposing a schedule to the Judge, and do not know yet whether she will accept our proposed schedule.
- Choinski – Ongoing complaints. Settlement agreement ends September 26, 2008. Last audit will be the end of January 2008.
- OPA v CT – Waiting to hear from the Judge. Case dismissed over lack of standing by OPA but left open for OPA to file using named plaintiffs. We have identified possible named plaintiffs.

### Susan Werboff – Program Director’s Report

- Review of restraint injury forwarded by DCF of student at Deveraux in Mass. After a discussion of the incident the PAIMI Advisory Council recommended pursuing possible involvement by Mass P&A. Gretchen K., Assistant Director, was directed to contact Mass P&A to discuss the injury.
- No official grievances in the PAIMI program.
- Riverview Hospital self-advocacy group is in the planning stages and CT Children’s Place has invited Susan W. to speak to the staff about self-advocacy classes at the end of March 2008.
- Susan A. and Susan W. are participating in DMHAS’ restraint and seclusion grant work group. It is a three year grant to reduce the use of restraint and seclusion on one unit at Cedarcrest (3W) and one unit at CT Valley Hospital (Battell ITU).
- DCF/DMHAS joint review of young adult services has finished. Report completed and given to Commissioner of DCF and DMHAS. Susan W. has not distributed the report as she does not know if it is appropriate to do so.

## Other Old Business

### Nomination of Elizabeth Larsen and Mark Griffin

Mark G. has asked to return to the PAIMI Advisory Council. He and Elizabeth left the room for voting to occur. Mark G. was nominated and all voted in favor. Elizabeth Larsen was also nominated and all voted in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- NDRN is going to be in New Orleans this year. Elizabeth L., Selena W., and Walt W. are interested in attending but need to check work schedules.
- There was a review of the goals and objectives. Latino initiative moving forward. The Patients Rights video has been turned into a DVD and will be distributed to inpatient units.
- Physical health care goal – Susan W. suggested a project related to access to general health care using a survey instrument. Doing a survey at Cedarcrest Hospital was discussed. Susan A. recommended speaking with Susan Graham the former CEO of Cedarcrest Hospital.

## Other New Business

Susan A. presented RB #5449, An Act Concerning Issuance of Emergency Certificates By Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Advanced Practiced Registered Nurses. Susan A. asked the Council to read the bill, consider taking a position and contacting their state Senator and Representative. The bill is attached.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008 from **11:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Werboff

c: James McGaughey  
Gretchen Knauff  
Nancy Alisberg