

## **PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 9:30 a.m. on February 24, 2009 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Walt Wetmore, Corrie Morse, Susan Aranoff, Sandy Chapman, and Muriel Tomer

Absent: Selina Welborn (E), William Curtis Denton (away/E), Josefa Correa (UnE), Elizabeth Larsen (E), Lorna Grivos (E) and Mark Griffin (UnE)

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. The minutes were reviewed from the December 2, 2008 meeting. Everyone voted in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **James McGaughey – Executive Director’s Report**

James McG. was unable to attend because he had to testify on two bills the same morning. No report available.

#### **Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney’s Report**

- Bolmer – Settlement negotiations on-going . Three months ago, DMHAS agreed to hold off on appeal. The Attorney General from DMHAS needs permission to settle the case. No permission yet.
- New Horizons – Waiting for a decision from the court.

- OPA v. CT – Motion to Dismiss answered by OPA. Other side filed reply brief last Thursday, 2/18/09. Waiting for decision.  
There was a discussion on the authority of P&A to bring lawsuits on its own rather than using named plaintiffs.
- DOC Initiative – Susan W. and Nancy A. updated the Council on the complaints from prisoners about meds at Northern Correctional Institute. Walt asked what OPA could have done differently so that Choinski could have had lasting affects.

Nancy cited two lasting changes due to the lawsuit: mental health staff has increased and the behavior of prisoners with mental illness are evaluated by mental health staff prior to issuing a ticket.

#### Susan Werboff – Program Director’s Report

- Presented seclusion injury at Manchester Community Child Guidance. Discussion of seclusion rooms and what to do. The Council asked Susan W. to resend letter to DMHAS to obtain quarterly restraint and seclusion data.
- Death reports completed by OPA of CVH death and Cedarcrest death. A new death report was recently made by Cedarcrest due to a patient choking. This is the second death at Cedarcrest of a patient choking on food.
- Susan W. reported that on March 11, 2009 Jim and she are meeting with Pat Rehmer, Deputy Commissioner, DMHAS, regarding the closure of Cedarcrest Hospital.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Susan A. – DOJ came to CVH about 2 years ago. Report forthcoming. There is a proposed settlement by State and DOJ. Agree not to seek contempt against each other and it is in place for four years.
- CLRP moved to intervene and have a couple of individual clients. Trying to get settlement agreement changed related to discharge.
- CLRP is looking for letters of support from other agencies.
- Motion to move that PAIMI Council write a letter of support. Seconded and voted all in favor.
- Walt W. and Susan W. to draft a letter of support. Susan W. requested that Susan A. forward information on the agreement to both Walt W. and her.

- Physical Health Care Integration discussion. Susan A. urged people to read the NASMH report.
- Susan A. suggested developing fact sheets on the physical health issues identified in the report.
- Target audience would be mental health consumers.
- Susan W. will set up a meeting with Larry Davidson of Yale to review the plan and to see what role his program could play. Muriel T. and Susan A. will remain involved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Werboff

c: James McGaughey  
Gretchen Knauff  
Nancy Alisberg