

PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 9:30 a.m. on December 6, 2011 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Muriel Tomer, Kirk Lowry, Jennifer Henry and Jerilyn Newson

Absence: Marcia McIntosh, Sandy Chapman, Elizabeth Larsen, Barbara Sloan, Wallace Peterson, Alicia Woodsby, Lorna Grivois, Roy Lee, Marisa Walls, Tom Behrendt, and Kim Guy

Staff: Bruce Garrison, PAIMI Assistant Program Director, Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director, Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney (by telephone), Jessica Rival and Wiley Rutledge

Guests: Joseph Laliberte, Jr., Deron Drum, AU, Sara Frankel, NAMI and Daniela Giordano, NAMI

CALL TO ORDER

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. The minutes will be discussed and the next meeting on February 7, 2012.

There was an introduction of everyone present.

OLD BUSINESS

James McGaughey – Executive Director’s Report

The Executive Director was not present at the meeting therefore, there was no report given.

Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney’s Report

The Managing Attorney participated in the meeting by conference call. However, no report was given.

Bruce Garrison – Assistant Program Director’s Report

Restraint and Seclusion

PAIMI has completed an investigation report of another incident of injury during a restraint at Klingberg. A meeting to discuss the issue including the findings of Restrain and Seclusion injury investigations is scheduled for December 9th with Arnie Trasente and others from Department of Children and Families. Anne-Louise Thompson of the State Department of Education (SDE) has requested a meeting later this month to review education related reports. She has directed staff from the Bureau’s Due Process and Complaint Resolution units to attend. Mr. Garrison reported that he anticipated more interest from SDE due to the visit from the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to the state this year.

The Council discussed possible remedies for the issue. These included new restraint and seclusion regulations, training on positive behavioral supports, developing new policies related to current regulations, and the monitoring of facilities. The Council also asked about a lawsuit against DCF regarding restraint and seclusion. Kirk L. stated that a lawsuit is separate from the legislation but often changes can be made through legislation by use of the outcome of the lawsuit.

Kirk L. made a motion to recommend to the Executive Director that the restraint and seclusion issue be made a priority and that action be taken legally and legislatively. Jerilyn N. second the motion. All attendees were in favor.

Avoiding PRTF Placement for another student

N.V. has returned to school with the mental health supports he needs. The district had determined that NV would not return to the high school in the fall for his senior year. He should be placed in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility where his needs could be met in a “more specialized facility”. A specialist with knowledge and experience working with children like NV with mental health needs in the school setting has implemented the goal of breaking the cycle of more restrictive treatment placements.

Development of a training program

Marisel Mandry, PABSS and CAP advocate, and PAIMI have begun development of a training program to respond to a 2012 PAC priority regarding the employment rights of individuals with psychiatric needs in recruitment, training, and maintaining employment. Content of the training will focus on accommodations and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The training will be offered to individuals with mental illness interested in employment rights.

Partnering with CCADV and BIAC

Presentations by BIAC and PAIMI have been made with Jerilyn O'Neil-Wild Coordinator of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) for staff members in all the state regions, working with families in 150 shelters. The training focused on disability rights and accessing mental health services for families, especially women and children with post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychiatric disabilities who end up in emergency rooms and shelters. women and children experiencing domestic violence. Additional ongoing opportunities for PAIMI training have been provided and requested by BIAC for other programs and agencies throughout the state.

Facility Report Cards

Elizabeth Larsen and Jennifer Henry completed the Backus Hospital follow up review with Justin. Sleeper. Muriel teamed up with Marcia McIntosh and connected with Liz Maros, nurse manager at Mid State Medical Center to complete their report card. (See attached report card).

PAC Annual Report

The PAC Annual report has been completed. Copies are available to Council members for this meeting. PAIMI 2012 priorities as passed at the August PAC meeting were included with P&A's PAIMI grant application to the federal government. Muriel has addendums and additions that have been circulated. (See attached annual report).

Gretchen K. stated that the PAIMI Program Performance Report (PPR) is still being completed and will be ready for handout at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PAIMI Program Priorities for FY 2011-2012

The priorities were submitted to the federal government. Muriel T. wanted to add to the priorities. Gretchen K. recommended that the addition be done as a project so that it doesn't have to wait until next fiscal year to get started. Muriel T. also suggested that the psychiatric report cards should be expanded to the community, like the LHAs, so that the outcomes can be reported to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Gretchen K. suggested that the psychiatric report card be put onto the OPA's website so that the Council can report what they have observed. Muriel T. volunteered to get more of the hospitals completed.

Restraint and Seclusion Injury Chart

Muriel asked what happens after the client information has been entered into the database.

Bruce stated that Jessica investigates some of the injuries and the information is reported to the agency. It also gets reported in the Annual PPR.

ADJOURNMENT

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Garrison

c: James McGaughey
Gretchen Knauff
Nancy Alisberg