

## **PAIMI Advisory Council Annual Meeting Minutes**

The PAIMI Advisory Council met for its bi-monthly meeting at 4:15pm on April 1, 2014 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Marisa Walls, Jerilyn Newsom, Jill Hall, Sue Kelly, Kirk Lowry, Tom Behrendt, and Kathy Flaherty

Excused Marcia Macintosh, Deron Drumm and Roy Lee

Absence:

Staff: James McGaughey, Executive Director, Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director, Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney, Bruce Garrison, PAIMI Assistant Program Director

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by Marisa Walls.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The minutes from February 4, 2014 meeting were reviewed and no corrections were necessary. Tom Behrendt motioned to accept the minutes with the corrections. The motion was seconded by Jill Hall. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Susan Kelly from NAMI introduced herself as Sara Frankel's replacement on the Council.

Jill Hall requested the outline of the presentation by P&A's Legislative Liaison Beth Leslie.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Executive Director's Report**

James McGaughey report included a discussion with Tom Behrendt on the Tim Murphy HB3717 "Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013" bill before congress as it is gathering unexpected support from Democrats and Republicans. A letter reflecting the Council's position completed by Jim was reviewed by the council. This letter will be presented to the Connecticut Congressional Delegation. NDRN is taking this bill seriously and is forming a coalition to oppose its passage. HB 3717 has the financial support of the National Association of Mental Health Providers and Pharmaceutical Companies.

James McGaughey also reviewed the results of the legislative forum jointly sponsored by P&A and the Office of the Child Advocate to highlight the problem of the use of restraint and seclusion in the school setting. Presenters Janice LaBelle and George Segai made compelling presentations based on eliminating the use of the aversive. Susan Kelly suggested the Regional Collaborative Groups can allow for parent input and an alternative for gather information about the use of restraint and seclusion with their children. James McGaughey reported that PAIMI's participation in the Connecticut Interagency Restraint and Seclusion Initiative has been joined by members from the Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections and Attorney Kathy Flaherty to plan this year's symposium. Central Connecticut State University will again be the site for the event. Plans are also underway to provide workshops on the six core principles by SAHMSA's Beth Caldwell.

### **Managing Attorney's Report**

Nancy Alisberg provided an update on pending PAIMI cases. P&A continues to work on the complaint filed with the Department of Justice on behalf of an adult student who was expelled from Quinnipiac University. The office also continues to work on several education cases involving children with psychiatric disabilities. Her staff are also representing in employment discrimination cases and residential care home discharge appeals.

### **Assistant Program Director's Report**

Bruce Garrison submitted a written report for the Council's review. This program year PAIMI staff members have provided advocacy to 35 individuals in community and institutional settings. Six individuals were children at risk of institutional placement because of inappropriate educational and mental health services provided. Eight individuals were represented in appeals of imminent discharge by their Residential Care Home providers. Sixteen clients were provided advocacy at Involuntary Medication Hearings. Five individuals were represented at treatment plan meetings planning discharge into the community.

PAIMI requested a meeting with the Manchester Memorial Hospital Director Tom King regarding a forced medication hearing conducted by one of its hearing officers. Mr. King agreed the hearing going forward was a violation of the patient's rights. He agreed to allow the PAIMI to conduct a training for all staff in the Rights of Patients facing Involuntary Medication

Hearings, including the standards of the statute and best practices. Mr. King expressed a desire to replace the currently used hearing officers with new hearing officers and modify hospital procedures to correct the abusive use of hearings to force the use of medication. PAIMI plans to provide training in April.

Jerilyn Newsom motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Marisa Walls at 6:05 pm.

The next PAIMI Council Meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Garrison