

PAIMI Advisory Council Annual Meeting Minutes

The PAIMI Advisory Council on February 4, 2014 at 4:35pm., at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (P&A).

Present: Marisa Walls, Jerilyn Newsom, Kirk Lowry, Tom Behrendt

Guests: William Pierce, DMHAS Office of Client Rights and Grievances

Absence: Marcia McIntosh, Roy Lee, Deron Drumm, Daniela Giordorno, Jill Hall and Kathy Flaherty

Staff: Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director, Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney, Bruce Garrison, PAIMI Assistant Program Director, Jessica Rival, PAIMI Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Marisa Walls.

OLD BUSINESS

There wasn't a quorum present for the PAIMI Advisory Council meeting. The minutes from January 7, 2014 were reviewed. It was noted that Kathy Flaherty has been appointed to the PAIMI Advisory Council.

SPECIAL GUEST: BETH LESLIE – P&A Legislative Liaison - Beth Leslie announced that the session begins tomorrow and continues through May 7, 2014. Beth reviewed current legislation being followed by P&A, and submitted a written report.

The PAC discussed the recent editorial by the Hartford Courant that supports Outpatient Commitment. The Public Health Committee of the legislature may consider an outpatient commitment bill.

Beth also reported that a mandatory mental health screening may be required for all children.

SPECIAL GUEST: WILLIAM PIERCE – Guest Report

Mr. William Pierce, from the DMHAS Office of Client Rights and Grievances presented information to the Council. He described the updated grievance policy and reviewed the publications he developed. Changes and additions were noted around the accelerated grievance process and request for service continuation during the process. The Council provided feedback to Mr. Pierce and suggested several changes and clarifications for both the policies and publications.

Mr. Pierce noted that all staff and PAC members were welcome to attend a presentation on the grievance procedure taking place on March 10, 2014 at 10:00 Am in Beers Hall.

Mr. Pierce said the publication is available in Spanish and he will send it to Gretchen.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director, James McGaughey submitted a written report for the Council's review.

Managing Attorney's Report

Nancy Alisberg provided an update on pending PAIMI cases. A letter was submitted to the committee working to amend questions related to mental health posed by the Connecticut Bar Association. The Department of Justice wrote a letter to Vermont regarding their opposition to the questions, as they violate the ADA. It is hopeful that the DOJ's position will positively effect CT's movement to change its practices.

Assistant Program Director's Report

Bruce Garrison submitted a written report for the Council's review. He reviewed the Council's membership requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.

The next PAIMI Council Meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Garrison

Attachments