



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Authorized by Federal Law (42 U.S.C.A. 10801-10826) to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with mental illness

PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

The PAIMI Advisory Council met for its bi-monthly meeting at October 6, 2015 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA).

Present: Jill Hall, Patricia Carroll, Kathy Flaherty, Tracie Compositor, Jennifer Henry, Deron Drumm, Michaela Fissell-Fryxell and Daniella Giordano

Absent: Tara Bernoudy

Guests: Paul Acker and Marc Jacques

Staff: Craig Henrici, Executive Director, Bruce Garrison, PAIMI Assistant Program Director, Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney, Cheri Bragg-Acker, PAIMI Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:18 pm by Jill Hall.

Marc Jacques introduced himself. He worked for Mental Health Advocacy, Inc. Has worked for CLRP as an intern in the past; he is a person with lived experience; currently works with his brother in a Recovery Community that they formed in CT.

Jill called for a vote for two nominated members: Marc Jacques & Paul Acker. Cheri was asked to excuse herself from writing the minutes by Gretchen as Paul is her husband. Marc was asked to leave the room during the voting and Paul Acker was not at the meeting yet.

Upon returning, Jill announced that Marc Jacques had been voted onto the Council. Jill announced that there will be 3 new applications to review for the next meeting. She also announced that Daniella Giordano had 3 meetings left to fulfill her term on the Advisory Council. Deron Drumm has 4 meetings left to fulfill his term on the Advisory Council.

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OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Report

Craig Henrici, reported that P&A has been very busy. The agency is being audited by AIDD. They have submitted their Tier 3 tool. The site visit begins December 1, 2015. They will be here from about 8:30AM-5:30PM each day.

P&A wrote a proposed letter in Opposition to H.R. 4626 to be delivered to the Members of Connecticut's Congressional Delegation. Reviewed proposed signees. Kathy F. and Daniella G. proposed that PAIMI add the CT Cross-Disability Alliance. Jill recommended PAIMI add Vicky Veltri from the Health Care Advocate's office. Marc Jacques recommended Mental Health Advocacy Inc. sign on (Donna Vitelli?). Mental Health CT was recommended (Louis Perez as signer). Jill recommended FAVOR (Jo Hawke) sign on. It was noted that Keep The Promise has different co-chairs now so that will have to be changed. Focus on Recovery, United (FOR-U) has new leadership and the signature must be changed to Paul Acker, Acting Director. The UCEDD Advisory Council was recommended. It was noted that the letter is technically lobbying – If a group or organization is federally funded, they can't sign it per Gretchen Knauff.

Managing Attorney Report

Nancy Alisberg gave her report: The status of Olmsted case (individuals residing in nursing facilities who want to live in the community) – She states she has been meeting monthly with attorneys, etc. The first big deadline is looming: People who were residents of the 3 nursing facilities in the case and who want to move should be transitioned into the community by 18 months. That 18 months is almost up. Many conservators refused initially to even have the resident assessed for community living readiness, but Nancy succeeded in getting many of them to consider this. The Department of Justice filed a statement of interest on this case and is aware of it, but they do not get involved in private settlements which this is.

CT Juvenile Training School – Nancy met with the chairs of the Children's Committee. They are not very supportive of the Office of the Child Advocate.

State Department of Education (SDE) – Nancy will be meeting with their new Bureau Chief re: restraints & seclusion. SDE is regarding the new legislation which was supposed to go into effect July 1, 2015 as meaning "just be more careful" about secluding someone vs. what we believe the law says which is "Seclusion may NOT be put into an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) because it can only be used as a last resort; emergency measure vs. something that is used as part of a child's plan. The SDE has a power-point that shows educators how to put seclusion into an I.E.P. with talking points. They are finding that the number of out-of-district placements are huge. Nancy also met with PAIMI advocates re: forced medication hearings; she will try to get a meeting with the Hospital Association.

PAIMI Director's Report

Bruce talked about meeting the Priorities & Objectives of the PAIMI Advisory Council & reviewed this year's proposed items. Michaela F. asked if we could put "dates to be accomplished by" on the plan. Bruce said that this can be done. A while back, Tom Berendt, a former Advisory Council member, proposed a white paper talking about the

fact that forced medications are really the same issue as (Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC). This Council would like something ready for this legislative session. The Hospital Association may be the fastest way to get change if they are willing to put pressure on these hospitals. Patricia & Michaela will work on Objective #3, p. 3 – young adults. They would like to incorporate Super Advocates – will get some potential training dates to Bruce. The Goals & Objectives were agreed upon. A work plan is needed next.

Membership Workshop/Committee Updates

Jill was the only person to show up for this committee meeting. She thinks we may want to move to dissolve this workgroup or at least put it on hold for now. Reviewed new membership application form. Michaela suggested we add “Other” under Gender category. All agreed. It was brought up that you cannot be on the Advisory Council if you provide direct care to people. This raises the question of why we would ask someone if they are a “mental health service provider” or “mental health professional”, one or both of whom would provide direct care to people.

PAC Development Training discussion: Reviewed list of possible areas of technical assistance from NDRN. Members seem to want a broad array of topics, mainly centering around Governance/roles & responsibilities of the PAIMI Advisory Council vs. Board of Directors; Outreach was mentioned as very important too in terms of diversity in particular (Daniella G. noted that this Advisory Council is not very diverse – mostly Caucasian).

PAC membership: PAC has 8 new members. Discussion ensued about whether to move the scheduled Dec. 1st PAC meeting to another date or not in order to also have the Governance training or hold the meetings separately. Everyone seemed to concur that they would like to hold one meeting vs. two. Several people were not available for a Dec. 1st meeting, plus it would be a bad week due to the P&A audit. Discussed moving it to Dec. 8th, 9th, or 10th. Paul A. from FOR-U offered his space to meet and have dinner. Kathy F. stated that it would be difficult to get on Rte. 9 South at that time of day.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce presented the raw data from the 2015 Restraints & Seclusion Conference at C.C.S.U.; the panel seemed to be greatly enjoyed as were the other speakers; contained some ideas for next year’s conference.

New PAC application was discussed here as well: New application will be put on the correct P&A letterhead. Michaela suggested taking “Work” off of the form as not everyone is employed. Discussion ensued re: work was one way to ensure that the Advisory Council is diverse. It was suggested we might substitute it with a Direct Care question as anybody who provides direct care to people cannot be on the PAIMI Council. It was decided to just take it off of the application since there is plenty of room for people to fill in their work experience later on the form.

Discussion re: public's knowledge or lack of P&A; Nancy A. stated that it is not law that hospitals must post our P&A posters, but many do, especially at patient phones. Discussion about where to put posters & whether we should visit sites to see if they need new posters. It was noted that DMHAS-run facilities are served by CLRP.

Announcements/Open Discussion

- Jill thanked new members for joining and attending.
- Kathy F. from CLRP brought CLRP flyers detailing why cutting legal services makes no sense
- Next meeting will be about Advisory Council recruitment, Advisory Council rights & responsibilities & recommending strategies for development.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, no discussion, so moved by Jill. Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Respectfully submitted
Cheri Bragg, PAIMI Advocate