



## CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

### June 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Location** - Department of Developmental Services Central Office (Hartford)

**In attendance:** Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Ann Gionet, Colleen Hayles, Sara Lourie, Lisa Sheppard, Robyn Trowbridge, Robin Wood

Terry Cote, Sharon Dexler, April Dipollina, Karen Hlavac, Renee Toper, Mona Tremblay present via telephone

Linda Mizzi present via teleconference at DDS East Hartford

**Excused Absence:** Tesha Imperati, Miriam Martinez

**Absent:** Mark Greenstein, Steven Hernandez, Maureen Smith

**Call to Order:** 10:14 am

**Introductions** made of Committee members in person, on the phone and by teleconference

**Public Comment:** No public present

**Review of May Minutes:** Reviewed the draft minutes from the May 9, 2013 meeting. Corrections to include:

1. Correct the spelling of April Dipollina's name
2. Revise the section on DVD/Family Stories Sub-committee to remove sentence about Mona sending out an email and adjust the number of families already identified.

Sharon Dexler made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes above. Ann Gionet seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with changes noted above. Abstaining were Karen Hlavac, Terry Cote, Renee Toper, Robyn Trowbridge, Colleen Hayles and Sylvia Gafford-Alexander.

## **Announcements**

1. Robin Wood indicated that DDS has space in its training on Person Centered Planning on June 17, 2013. She will send out information in an email.
2. Colleen Hayles mentioned an interagency committee looking at reduction in restraint and seclusion and a symposium on September 25, 2013 at CCSU to kick off a statewide initiative to promote alternatives to and reduce the need for restraints/seclusion.
3. Robyn Trowbridge discussed membership status; it was suggested that Council members review their appointment letters. The question arose around the relationship between the term of the appointing authority and the Council member being able to serve. Several Council members indicated situations in which the Council member continued past their appointing authority being in office. It is assumed that the Council member appointment continues until there is a new person in that office to update the appointment. This needs to be confirmed with DDS Legislative Liaison and Robin Wood will follow-up.
4. Ann Gionet indicated that the DPH State Health Assessment work plan and performance measures are on the DPH website.
5. Robyn Trowbridge talked about a grant supporting an initiative involving UCEDD, DDS and Yale to develop diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorders. This started prior to the new DSM V and the impact of related changes will be reviewed now that it has been published. The purpose of this initiative is to support physicians/clinicians by providing detailed information around autism assessment, diagnosis and best practices. It is anticipated that the final product will be available soon and this will be added to future agendas for updates.

## **Old Business**

1. Annual Report - Robin Wood and Lisa Sheppard hand delivered copies to the Legislative Office Building; a copy was also given to the Governor with a cover letter. Robin Trowbridge will draft a letter for the Lieutenant Governor and Representative Rosa DeLauro.

The PDF will be available as soon as final corrections are sent to Linda Mizzi.

2. Teleconferencing - This is the first meeting that teleconferencing was available and Linda Mizzi used the East Hartford location. There were issues in two of the DDS offices due to staff being on vacation. Everyone thanked Robin Wood for the extensive time she put in to coordinating this and agreed that glitches are to be expected, particularly at the beginning. Robin Wood reminded Council members that she needs at least 1 week notice to use one of the sites. If members are not able to do this, they need to go to the main site or call in on the phone.

## **New Business**

1. Annual Meeting/Nominations Committee - July 11 is the Council annual meeting which includes election of officers. The Nominations Committee including Mona Tremblay and Terry Cote gave an update on preparation of a slate of officers. Robyn Trowbridge's term will end some time during this year and so a new Co-Chair will be nominated. The Nominations Committee asked Karen Hlavac to consider being Co-Chair with Lisa Sheppard continuing for another term. Linda Mizzi and Sara Lourie were discussed as candidates for Secretary; Sara has agreed to accept the nomination. In addition, nominations from the floor will be accepted at the annual meeting.

There was agreement to honor Jennifer Carroll's service to the Council at the annual meeting. Sara will send an email requesting food/beverage donations. Robyn and Lisa will work on obtaining a proclamation from the Governor to honor her contribution.

It was decided that the July annual meeting will be held at the Office of Protection and Advocacy in Hartford.

2. Annual Retreat in September

The annual retreat is scheduled for 10 am to 3 pm on September 12, 2012. April is talking with Camp Harkness about availability.

## **Standing Agenda Items**

1. Partnership Grant - Robin Wood reported that Connecticut was one of the 5 states selected to receive this grant, along with Washington, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Washington DC. Next step is to attend a kick-off in Missouri. Robin Wood, Tesha Imperati and Cathy Adamczyk will have leadership roles since DDS and the Developmental Disabilities Council are the lead for this initiative in Connecticut. This will remain a standing agenda item.
2. DVD/Family Stories - (Sub-Committee is Mona Tremblay, Robin Wood, April Dipollina and Robyn Trowbridge) - the lab is almost completed and the "pilot" families that Mona and April identified are ready to start.
3. School Climate - (Sub-Committee is Carlos Colon, Sharon Dexler, Tesha Imperati, Lisa Sheppard, Marie Bennett) - the Subcommittee met and reported on a forum held at the Legislative Office Building with a keynote presentation by Dr. Mark Brackett from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Sharon Dexler and Lisa Sheppard attended and talked about his perspective around impacting bullying in general through emotional intelligence and embedding positive interaction into the educational experience as well as engaging the community through the school and

family. Sylvia talked about a presentation to the DSS managers by David O'Brien which had some similarities but there was more of a focus on community and home as the place to direct change efforts. A lively discussion followed about where best to focus and on what age group, particularly whether it makes sense to start in pre-school or with older children/youth.

Various Council members talked about initiatives that clearly show extensive focus across many settings (i.e. Renee Toper discussed the parent advocacy collaboration team in the school looking at how to enhance the curriculum, Robyn Trowbridge talked about her presentation to Kiwanis Club, and initiatives through True Colors and Bully Busters, etc.).

The question of having Dr. Brackett as a presenter at the September FSC Retreat was discussed; consensus was not reached and this needs more discussion at the July meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm**

**Next meeting: July 11, 2013**

Minutes recorded by Sara Lourie, Interim Secretary