



Jodi M. Rell
Governor

Minutes ~ June 12, 2008

Members In Attendance:

Patti Silva-Chair, Jennifer Carroll-Vice Chair, Stuart Brown, Karen Hlavac, David Hadden, Kevin Morey, John Pelegano, Jack Frost, Sheila Mulvey, Carlos Colon, Peter H. O'Meara-Ex-Officio

DDS Staff:

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner
Christine Pollio – Legislative & Executive Affairs Director
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson
Michael Woodson – Director of Investigations
Ivette DeJesus – Executive Secretary

Patti Silva - Chair opened the meeting.

Public Participation:

Mr. Patrick Vingo, V.P. Parents & Friends LFC. Mr. Vingo attended the Council meeting to have an idea of what happens during meetings. Parents & Friends LFC used to have someone in the Council and they would like to have this happen again.

Minutes:

The May Council minutes were approved as amended.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno informed the Council of the following updates:

- He had a discussion with Inspectors regarding visits to group homes and respite centers.
- He collaborated with Central Office nurse to help expand the role of Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) reviews.
- He attended an OBRA meeting to discuss communication roles between the Central Office nurse and Ombudsman.
- He met with the Legislative Program Review Committee to help with their study of “Planning for needs of Aging Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.”
- He spoke with a parent regarding eligibility of their child. There was paperwork missing. He then contacted the Eligibility Unit who then contacted this particular parent to discuss what was missing.
- He received a call from a social worker of a hospital regarding placement of a consumer. He called the region and spoke with the regional director and the OBRA nurse. The region is looking for an appropriate placement.

- He discussed with SNFs and several OBRA nurses, "What happens when consumer refuses needed medical treatment, such as dialysis?" He asked if the SNFs call the guardian or family to tell them of each occurrence. He was told that SNFs usually do not call guardian or family to make them aware of potentially dangerous situations.

SNF Visits:

- 5/5/2008 Visited four consumers at the Plainville Health Care Center.
- 5/12/2008 Visited two consumers at Bidwell Health Center in Manchester.
- 5/23/2008 Visited two consumers at the Farmington Health Care Center.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

- As of this morning, the insurance pool bill has not been approved or vetoed. Veto session scheduled for June 23, 2008.
- The legislative session wrap-up will be on the web in the near future.
- The OLR bill analyses for the June 11, 2008 special session bills were distributed and discussed.
- Council appointment letters were discussed.
- There is a tentative hearing scheduled for June 24, 2008 with the Human Services & Appropriations Committees regarding the waiver renewal and amendments. (Kathryn explained the amendments.)
- If Council is going to do a letter of support for the waivers to the Committees of Cognizance, it needs to be done before the June 24, 2008 hearing. (Patti will coordinate.)
- The Respectful Language meeting went very well. There were quite a few people in attendance. Beth McArthur and Christine Pollio are working on drafting a policy on Respectful Language for the groups' review.
- Christine discussed some ways of possibly making it easier to keep track of Council members and the terms that are served. Dr. Pelegano posed the question if what Christine proposed would simplify things. Christine answered that she is not sure, discussion took place, she will follow up. Dr. Pelegano shared that he feels it is disruptive to the Council to have people leave at different times of the year. He also suggested having two dates for changes to occur.

Commissioner's Updates:

- The Commissioner thanked Karen, Stuart, and David for their valued work and support. He also shared what a tremendous asset they have been to the department.
- Update on Budget:
 - DDS is well positioned to meet all of our obligations. The Governor has asked agencies to minimize expenditures during the last weeks of budget year. DDS is working on doing so, but certain expenses are committed and need to be provided.
 - The department was able to provide supplemental one-time funding to day service providers to help with increased transportation costs.
 - The budget for next year will have challenges. We are asked to reduce gas consumption by 25%. DDS currently has 590 vehicles. We utilize 585,000 gallons of gas annually for our fleet vehicles.
 - There will be some cost rescissions for FY'09. DDS currently has a meeting with OPM for next week. Council support would be great as DDS moves forward to FY 10 & 11.
 - Providers are experiencing cost increases in energy and will need assistance.

- There have been some issues you may have heard about. The recent Marine who died was the son of a long-term DDS employee. It should be included in your press packets. Another one was about a young infant who passed away while visiting family at STS. It was not related to anything DDS did. Commissioner stated that there were a few inquiries from the Press but not too much attention.
- Mr. Hadden posed the question; “It is the state’s policy for no new admittance to STS, what is the departments vision for STS in the future?” Commissioner responded that DDS will continue to provide quality care for the residents of STS, but both the consent decree and state legislation precludes admission. DDS will also move resources around as we have less people. As the census at STS declines, we have been able to create more Respite Centers and Family Support teams using reallocated resources.
- There was discussion of a possible tour of STS for the Council in the late summer or early fall. Ms. Hlavac shared that a lot of DDS consumers go to Southbury for dental services.

Old Business:

- Ms. Hlavac shared that she attended the Abuse and Neglect training that the Council was invited to at the previous meeting by Captain Woodson. She made it to two of the classes. She also shared that it was very impressive, good to have attended and very informative.
- QSR update will be done in the September meeting.

New Business:

- The Council voted on the Bylaws. A motion was passed and accepted by the Council. Mr. Hadden thanked Rod on behalf of the Council for all his work. Ms. Pollio thanked Jennifer and Patti for their assistance throughout the revisions.
- A report from the nominating committee (Lou, Jack, and Kevin) reported that they unanimously nominate: Ms. Carroll as the new Chair until the end of the term, Mr. Richards as Vice Chair, and Mr. Frost as Secretary. Ms. Silva thanked the Committee for their update. Voting will take place at the July meeting.
- The Council motioned to vote and unanimously agreed to do a letter of support for the renewal of the Comprehensive waiver and the amendment to the IFS waiver. Both waivers are adding health care coordination and live-in companion services.
- Council Chair Silva thanked Stuart, Dave, and Karen for their great leadership and wished them the best of luck. She also shared that their paths will cross again. As parents we are our best resources.
- Mr. Hadden shared that he is looking forward to seeing everyone here again.
- Mr. Frost shared that the department orientation held prior to the meeting was very well organized and very helpful. Thank you for having this.

****The next meeting will be held on July 10, 2008.****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 8:02 p.m.