



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR



Minutes ~ June 14, 2007

Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown – Chair, Karen Hlavac – Vice Chair, Dave Hadden, Lou Richards, Robert Wood, Ed Walen, Chavis Chappell, Michael O’Toole, Peter H. O’Meara-Ex-Officio

DMR Staff:

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson
Michael Woodson - Investigations
Ivette DeJesus

Stuart Brown - Chair opened the meeting.

Citizen Input:

None.

Minutes:

May minutes approved.

Guest Speaker: Cpt. Mike Woodson, Director of Investigations

Cpt. Woodson shared a power point presentation on the 2007 Division of Investigations overview. He also shared statistical data.

Cpt. Woodson shared some handouts, one was the training packet used in investigations training (very thick packet).

Discussion per presentation:

Mr. O’Toole expressed concern in regards to not having cameras at all the facilities. Mr. O’Toole thanked Cpt. Woodson for the information shared.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno continues to field calls regarding lack of funding for grads. Directed them to call their legislators especially the co-chairs of appropriations committee.

Mr. Mambruno received a complaint from New Haven Mayor's office regarding possible eviction of consumer living with family. Individual has turned 18 causing termination of subsidized adoption payments from the DCF. Family is looking to DMR to make up for this loss. Family called Ombud’s office in hopes that he can either convince DCF to continue payments or have region make up difference.

Mr. Mambruno received a call from a sister of a consumer to make a complaint that her brother/sister had received a letter in 2000 granting eligibility. After that letter she stated she never heard anything else. She asked if she had submitted all paperwork to eligibility office and contacted them to see if that was problem. Eligibility office returned call to state that brother /sister were not on Title 19. She called the eligibility office, they stated that not all the Medicaid documents had been filled in and returned. Mr. Mambruno called sister who sent in required paperwork and eligibility was approved.

Mr. Mambruno received call from attorney seeking assistance for his client. Mom had entered into a "verbal agreement" with region providing services directly to her child. There was a discrepancy with what was allegedly agreed upon rate and mom was disputing this by retaining lawyer. Spoke with RD (PRAT reviewed) and CO legal. Sent attorney letter.

Mr. Mambruno received a call from a Spanish-speaking mom who alleges that her child does not have a bilingual case manager or TTY at CLA. Mr. Mambruno contacted region that disputed claim that she did not have a Spanish-speaking case manager. Region did however state that they had been looking into purchasing a TTY and would be purchasing one very shortly.

Legislative Report - by Peter O'Meara:

As always, please feel free to contact Christine by phone or email should you have any questions. (860) 418-6066, email Christine.pollio@po.state.ct.us

Commissioner O'Meara discussed the following updates per Christine's update to the Council:

Agency Bills:

- HB 7007, AN ACT RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION.
- HB 7008, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

Other bills of interest that were passed:

- HB 5537, An Act Concerning Wheelchair Safety.
- SB 977, An Act Concerning Restraints and Seclusion in Public Schools.
- SB 1396, An Act Concerning the State Purchase of Service Contracts for Health and Human Services.
- SB 1438, An Act Concerning Notice of Certain Probate Court Hearings and the Filing of Certain Reports.
- SB 1182, An Act Concerning Administrative Procedures of the Department of Public Works, Auditing of Large Construction Contracts, Environmental Review of Certain Land Transfers, Grant Payments to Municipalities, Advertising on State buildings and Certain Exemptions to the Freedom on Information Act.
- SB 1439, An Act Concerning Conservators and Appeals of Conservatorships and Guardianships.
- Emergency Certification SB 1484, An Act Concerning the Health first Connecticut and Healthy Kids Initiative.

Other Bills of Interest that did “NOT” pass:

- SB 73, An Act Expanding Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids for Children.
- SB 1197, An Act Concerning the Transition of Care and Treatment of Children and Youth from the Department of Children and Families to the Departments of Mental Retardation and Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- SB 1407, An Act Concerning Special Education and HB 7176, An Act Concerning Special Education.
- Emergency Certification SB 1485, An Act Concerning Clean Contracting Standards.
- SB 1096, An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Fatality Review Board for Persons with Disabilities.

Other issues/Good News:

None of the bills related to group home citing or municipal notification made it out of the committee process and they did not appear as an amendment later in the session.

There was nothing in the conveyance bill, or filed as an amendment, related to the Undercliff property/DMR’s Meriden Campus.

I hope that the above information is helpful. Copies of, or additional information on, any of the above mentioned or any other bills from this session can be found online at www.cga.ct.gov. Enter the bill number and hit “go”. This will bring you to the bill history page where you can see end results of any bills from the session including: if it passed both chambers, any amendments that passed, was it signed by the Governor, and any public act numbers that have been assigned.

Commissioner’s Updates:

- Due to the budget not having passed, any new services we wanted to provide, we can’t at this time with no budget in place as of July 1st. This includes high school students.
- Investigations update: Every year we have made enhancements and changes in our agreement with OPA. We have improved awareness of reporting and prevention.
- Commissioner expressed how fortunate the department is to have Mike and his great staff who are doing a great job!
- Mr. O’Toole questioned how would we investigate “ourselves” should a real difficult investigation arise? Commissioner responded that there are a lot of cross checks. The MR/ICF model requires cross checking. Mike reports directly to Commissioner.
- Karen Hlavac also added that in her son’s investigation the investigations unit was very thorough. There were receipts, interviews, statements put together, and DMR worked with OPA.
- Bob inquired, are there any agencies with perfect records? Cpt. Woodson responded no.
- Ted Walen brought up the issue about aging population and what is the department’s direction in the future:
Commissioner responded: The issue before on Aging is much more than the structure we have in place. The agency will have to hire a few people to lead this effort. We will need to bring in some experts to start planning the process and someone to look at demographics.

- Ted Walen would like to urge the department to move forward on this issue as it's enormous, to support plans now and for the future. Ms. Hlavac added that aging is the next crisis following dental.
- Bob Wood asked the Council, could we as Council pass resolution to DDS to support plans to support Aging clients now and in the future and get updates on this. Council voted and passed. Report due to Council in September 2007.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Discuss with Jennifer dentist from Long Island to possibly attend the next FORCONN meeting.

Discussion of whether the Council will meet in July and August. August meeting has been cancelled.

****The next meeting will be held on July 12th.****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 8:05 p.m.