



Jodi M. Rell
Governor

Minutes ~ October 11, 2007

Members In Attendance:

Stuart Brown – Chair, Patti Silva, David Hadden, Lou Richards, Jennifer Carroll, Robert Wood, Ed Walen, Chavis Chappell, Peter H. O’Meara-Ex-Officio

DMR Staff:

Kathryn du Pree – Deputy Commissioner
Ed Mambruno – Ombudsperson
Christine Pollio – Legislative Liaison
Ivette DeJesus – Exec. Secretary

Guests:

Tammy Garris
David Carlow

Stuart Brown - Chair opened the meeting.

Citizen Input:

None.

Minutes:

Council minutes approved with changes.

Aging Presentation by Dave Carlow & Tammy Garris:

Tammy:

- The Aging Focus team has met a few more times since last time they presented to the Council.
- Ed Mambruno will be going to visit clients who live in nursing homes. DSS has determined that Mr. Mambruno will have access to the records.
- Tammy will be meeting with Dawn at DSS re: MOU. Dawn is also joining the Aging Focus team.
- Beth Aura Miller will work to assure appropriate DSS services for our elderly clients are included in our waiver amendments.
- The College of direct Support is developing a module on aging as part of the E-Learning training
- Dr. Kerrins volunteered to develop a training curriculum about people with Alzheimers & Down syndrome.
- Frank Parks & Clare Leary are looking at assessment tools across the region to develop a standardized approach.

- Aging Committee will be using the Vision Statement as the “Aging Statement”. Action Plan will be the 5 yr plan.
- Marcia Noll will chair committee.
- Commission on Aging is working on their website and will assist with ours.
- The data in the Aging Report was updated.
- Regional liaisons have been re-established.
- Next Meeting: Dec. 6th (10-12) – Wallingford Office.

Dave:

- Handouts supplied to council on aging data. Mr. Carlow did an overview of the handouts and answered questions.
- In the new health care website under DDS there will be Health & Well initiatives and Health & Aging updates.

Ombudsperson Report – Ed Mambruno:

Mr. Mambruno informed the Council of the following updates:

- CO’s legal staff interprets the statutes favorably to meet with consumers at Skilled Nursing Facilities. He will begin to meet with consumers when IT produces list of facilities and names of consumers as well as their case managers.
- He will be interviewing for staff for the office of the Ombudsperson.
- Spoke with a mother of a consumer regarding an incident in which the family brought their daughter to the Casino and was chastised by a person identifying themselves as a state employee. To date have not received further information and/or contact from mom.
- Received an e-mail from an individual whose friend is the mother of a son with a diagnoses of autism/mental retardation who is having difficulty getting appropriate educational services.
- Received an e-mail from a relative of an individual who wanted to comment on the terrific care that this individual receives at the Torrington facility.

Legislative Report - Christine Pollio:

Ms. Pollio informed the Council of the following updates:

- The legislative package is not done yet. We received an extension.
- Name of the Council – title did not change as was explained at the last meeting. Since Council was going in the direction of changing its name, input is to continue with that. Ms. Pollio will put request to make that change with legislation.
- COUNCIL passed Motion to call themselves the Council on Developmental Services.

Commissioner’s Updates:

- QSR New comprehensive quality service review system that is to be fully implemented during this fiscal year. Should have presentation @ council meeting on this in the near future.
- David & Tammy did a great job on their Aging presentations.

- We will be hiring an Aging coordinator.
- Statistical numbers: even though we have almost 400 individuals living in SNFs other states have many more people in this situation.
- Thanks to Christine Pollio & Joan Barnish. The name change has been very seamless. Great celebrations across the state.
- There is a Child Advocate evaluation of Birth to 3 system. We have concerns about the objectivity of the study and whether it must be reviewed by the IRB which approves all research involving our consumers.
- West Region Director selection process is underway.
- CVH asked for assistance – KD & POM have approved some staff to assist them with physical plant renovations so they can maintain their certification status.
- We will invite a staff from the College of Direct Support to do a presentation in the near future on the new E learning program.
- We have approved some enhancement positions in central office and the regions to assist with business, capital improvements, HR, contracting and secretarial support. At CO we need additional office space and are checking space that is available on Woodland St., in Hartford.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

- A letter will be drafted to the appointing official regarding the removal of a council member from Council on Developmental Services who has not been in attendance.
- The Bylaws were discussed. Ivette will email the bylaws to all members. Please review so they can be discussed at the next meeting. Email Ivette your input @ ivette.Dejesus@ct.gov
- Lou reminded the council ~ RAC minutes are to be shared with the Council members and the Developmental Services Council minutes to also be shared with the RAC Counsel members.
- Discuss meeting once a year with Regional Advisory Councils.

****The next meeting will be held on November 8th.****

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned: 8:15 p.m.