

# **FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**

## **Monthly Meeting**

**December 11, 2008**

### **Draft**

Date: 12/11/2008

Place: Office of Protection and Advocacy

Time: 10:10am –12:06pm

**Attendees:** *Voting members* – Kathy Bradley, Terry Cote, Ann Gionet, Colleen Hayles, Laura Knapp, Joan Law, Eveleen McDonald, Cindy Jackson (for Deb Pagano), Michael Selvaggi, Angela Spino, Terry Walsh, Karen Zrenda. *Members* – Alice Butwell, Jennifer Carroll, Molly Cole, April Dipollina, Hal Gibber, Sheila Harris, Tesha Imperati, Joy Liebeskind, Moira O’Neill, Chris Sloss, Sara Reed, Mona Tremblay *New Parent* Sally Huck

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Meeting was brought to order by Karen Zrenda at 10:10 A.M. and introductions were made.

Name cards were distributed by member Michael S. and requests were made for names of nonvoting members to be added. Suggest that Michael place a “V” to designate voting members.

April asked to be added to the agenda.

Karen asked for a motion to add (2) items to the agenda, the status of the FSC as a public agency and the listserve. Terry motioned and April second.

This meeting was taped by Chris Sloss and Michael Selvaggi. April asked that as a courtesy, when meetings are being taped that we be sure to disclose this to all members before we begin. Suggested addition of this to the by-laws.

### **2. Acceptance of October & November minutes**

Michael noted that there was no date of submission and no listing of the person who took the minutes. It was clarified that they were submitted on 11/19/08 by Moira O’Neill.

Michael wanted it clarified that he did not “complain” about receiving the minutes late in reference to his comments in the November meeting minutes. Michael noted that Jen Carroll is not a voting member and therefore could not make a movement to accept the minutes at last months meeting. Therefore we must reaccept the minutes from October because they were not accepted properly.

Voting members were asked to identify themselves to determine a quorum. 2/3 of present voting members have to be parents and 1/3 of total voting members have to be present in order to have a quorum. Today we will have a quorum when all parent members arrive.

**Vote deferred to presence of quorum.** Once present, Terry C moved to accept November meeting minutes, Joan seconded. All approved with Michael abstaining.

Terry W. motioned to accept October minutes. Kathy seconded and all approved with Michael abstaining.

Motion to accept the additions to the agenda Joan motioned to accept, Terry C seconded, all in favor, no one abstained.

Karen Z read the FSC group meeting ground rules that have been shared at past retreats that have been used as guidelines (See Karen's document attached).

### **3. Public Comments**

April presented on a letter she passed around on behalf of Linda Shamrad who is a parent in the Network in SE who with support of Oak Hill is starting a camp at Harkness called Camp Dragonfly for girls, Aug 16-21.

### **4. Subcommittee Updates:**

- **Membership** – Joan Law reported that they met last week, minutes not available to share right now.
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- **Insurance and Health** – Karen reported that they did not meet this month.
  
- **Education Committee** – Angela said will be meeting after FSC meeting today.

**Family Support and Respite** – April passed out minutes. Discussion ensued regarding obtaining information from member agencies in order to have readily available information to share with families.

Kathleen B suggested inviting Deanna Lea from DCF to present on Differential Response System (DRS) that will be a new program to assist families in need.

Joan L suggested encouraging Infoline to come back to the table to share and collect information and promote updating of all information.

April asked in the interest of time, submit comments about programs and sources of information over the listserv where discussion can continue.

### **5. Explore the status of FSC as a public agency:**

- Karen asked to consider further exploration of the status and responsibilities of the FSC as a state agency. Terry W motioned to explore status and responsibilities of FSC as a public agency and Colleen seconded.

Discussion: Discussion followed in regards to the basis of need for request. Karen reported she was advised to explore and get official opinion in writing. Discussion followed in regards to obligations as public officials and code of Ethics. New members usually receive information about Ethical obligations with appointment letter from appointing officials.

Vote called: all in favor, no against and no abstentions

- Karen asked for motion to explore responsibilities under FOI. Laura motioned, and Angela Spino seconded. All in favor. Terry W against. No abstentions.

Discussion: In regards to clarification of new FOI statute affecting public notice and availability of minutes. It was suggested that we invite the FOI group to make a presentations to the council.

#### **6. Family Support Council Listserv:**

- Family Support Council Listserv – No Vote, Discussion Only about recent suspension of listserv due to complaints about the tone of postings. Karen proposed that we consider use of a separate FSC business e-mail list for use regarding the work-related issues of the council. The Council will explore appropriate advice to determine obligations of the Council and listserv moderator regarding the listserv.

#### **7. Legislative Breakfast:**

Due to lack of time the legislative breakfast was not discussed or planned. A small committee of volunteers will meet separately to do so.

Kathy B., Molly, Mona, Laura, Joy, and April will meet on 12/18 1:30 at Favor

#### **8. State Dept. of Ed Concern:**

Michael S. reported on a concern regarding language used in a document produced by SDE that is available as a link on FSC website. He is concerned the language, specifically use of the word “chair” in the context of planning for PPT meetings. Colleen reported that the document was created by a parent advisory group and SDE officials have determined the language to be acceptable as it is used only as a means to identify a coordinating/scheduling role on the PPT.

Discussion followed. Michael S. desired a vote for the FSC to take action but no quorum was available for a vote. The concern was tabled.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Joan Law motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kathy Bradley.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Sloss