

**DRAFT** Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services  
Minutes, January 8, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maggie Casciato, Judy Dowd, Ruth Eren, Chera Gerstein, Jacqueline Kelleher, James Loomis, Sara Reed, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Larry Wood and Jennifer Ureta

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine Abercrombie, Nancy Bagatell, Jennifer Carroll, Mary Franco, Jan Galloway, Ann Gionet, David Daniel Klipper, Angela Klonski, Sara Lourie, Stan Soby, Joseph Stobierski, Tricia Winter

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Kathy Reddington, Lori Conchado

There were no members of the public present.

### **Data Committee**

The Data Committee presented recommendations to the Housing Committee. (Recommendations Attached)

### **Housing Committee**

Kathy will make arrangements for consumers to participate in a Housing Data Survey and provide refreshments.. Ruth and Jacqui will facilitate; Chera and Jacqui will work on wording for the announcement; Jim and Maggie will attend as observers. The session is scheduled for 2/25 from 5:30 -7:00. The location is to be determined. A snow date is scheduled or 3/4.

### **Public Affairs Committee**

Committee Members viewed the 22 minute webcast, which was facilitated by Sara Reed and includes 4 Pilot Program Participants. The webcast is available on the DDS website at: [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) under "Video Library." There was a discussion of editing this for use at Coffee Forums in the Spring and Fall with Legislators to be invited. It was suggested that we add some visuals of consumers artwork mentioned in the webcast and clips of Jacqui's family video as well. Kathy will check into getting copies of the webcast for distribution.

### **Pilot Program Update**

The program has expanded its service area to include Granby, E. Granby, Somers, Canton, Burlington, Plymouth, Vernon, Marlborough and Hebron. There are currently openings in the Hartford area and may be some in the South due to under utilization by consumers. Jim believes

some under utilization occurs when providers do not encourage consumers to work through issues.

Kathy is still working on a 3-Tier Waiver. Participants on the waiver will have to become Medicaid eligible to participate. Although this is a concern for some, program coordinators are working with participants through the process.

### **Insurance Bill (Public Act 09-115)**

Families are confused as to what is covered and need to be educated on this issue. To complicate matters, insurers are unsure of what they are providing and are looking at Robert Genuario for direction.

Lois has asked Autism Speaks to put something on their website as this is their bill. Autism Speaks is directing calls to the Attorney General's Office if they are denied services.

The bill covers "Fully Insured" plans, while most plans are at 50% coverage. There is a very small percentage of people who will qualify for coverage and they are being denied. Calls on this issue should be directed to Legislators to better define the terms.

Next Meeting is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>.