

Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services
Minutes
February 20, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Bagatell, Carol Barans, Tom Boudreau, Judy Dowd, Ruth Eren, Alison Fisher, Chera Gerstein, James Loomis, Sara Lourie, Yana Razumnaya, Sara Reed, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Barbara Salop, Stan Soby, Larry Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine Abercrombie, Ann Gionet, Tesha Imperati, Jacqueline Kelleher, David Daniel Klipper, Kathy Marchione, Joel Rudikoff, Tricia Winter

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Commissioner Terrence Macy, Jennifer Bogin

GUESTS: Sarah Abelli, Cathy Calway, Christine Damato, DDS Staff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M.

Public Comment

Tragedy in Newtown. Commissioner Macy and Jennifer Bogin will not be making a public announcement regarding the tragedy in Newtown. Commissioner feels that it would be best to let it be.

Additions to Agenda

None

Approval of December 19, 2012 Minutes

Motion was made by Tom Boudreau and second by Barbara Salop to accept the minutes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Focus Groups

Two sessions held- First one on January 26, 2013 at Chapel Haven in New Haven. Nancy Bagatell co-facilitated. Four participants with ASD, two parents and one spouse were in attendance. Second session held February 12, 2013 at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. Five participants with ASD, two parents and one mentor attended. Topics discussed included service delivery, training, credentialing, resource clearinghouse, reimbursement and employment. Most participants felt there is a great need for a FAQ line or crisis line and emergency respite for individuals with ASD.

Feasibility Study Update

The Autism Feasibility Study Workgroup recommendations have been completed and submitted to the Governor and are awaiting his response. There will be an event held with the Feasibility group and Governor Malloy attending.

Update on Autism Division

There are currently 111 individuals on the Autism Waitlist. To date DCF has transferred 14 children to the Department. New approved providers are joining but most have experience with children. Jenn is working with private providers translating services. Jim Loomis has been training case management on building internal knowledge.

Commissioner Macy and Jenn have met with various insurance companies' regarding families/individuals not able to receive services mandated to them. Services are not trickling down to the families. The Division is collection data from families when they call requesting services. Licensing issues seem to be the most common for BCBA's because they can't be put in the network due them being certified, not licensed. The Division is also giving families the Connecticut Insurance Department's Consumer Helpline number to call and file a complaint. Jenn proposed the idea of compiling a list of FAQs for the insurance companies to give to families and establishing a point of contact.

Provider Quality

No updates: The Provider Quality Group will be rescheduled to February 21th due to the blizzard and the main focus will be looking at measuring quality.

Wrapping up the Work of the Advisory Council

Chera compiled a list of priorities

- Housing
- Employment
- Provider Qualifications
- Provider Service Quality

Larry, Jim and Lois will be working on finalizing information (history) to present to the Committee.

The current Council members will form a subcommittee and draft a working document, with the history of the Council, to present to the new Council. Lois offered to be the point person for anyone who would like to be involved and Nancy offered to assist.

ASRC Announcement

The 23rd Annual Northeast Regional Conference on Autism will be held March 15th & 16th at SCSU. Brochures, information and registration are available online. Lois, Sara and Ruth announced that Jim Loomis, Ph.D. will be receiving the Community Professional Award Saturday morning at the conference.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am