

## **PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 9:30 a.m. on April 7, 2009 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Walt Wetmore, Susan Aranoff, Selina Welborn, William Curtis Denton, Josefa Correa, and Lorna Grivois

Absent: Corrie Morse (E), Sandy Chapman(E), Elizabeth Larsen(E), Mark Griffin (UnE) and Muriel Tomer(E)

Staff: Susan Werboff, PAIMI Program Director, James McGaughey, Executive Director, Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director and Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Walt W. The minutes were reviewed from the February 24, 2009 meeting. Everyone voted in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **James McGaughey – Executive Director’s Report**

- Announced that there is an OPA newsletter produced every 2 months. One newsletter has already been produced with a second one due out shortly.
- Training initiative for OPA staff – Second Step Players will be coming to OPA on May 14, 2009. Jim invited the PAIMI Advisory Council to attend. Susan A. recommended the training, “Hearing Voices.” OPA did this training several years ago.

OPA will remain in this building.

- Jim McG. has been testifying a lot. He reported on one particular piece of legislation, “An Act Concerning Notification for Halfway Houses.” OPA opposed this bill. OPA worked with a coalition of agencies on alternate language which went nowhere.

- There was a bill to eliminate other advocacy based state offices such as the Health Care Advocate, Child Advocate, Nursing Home Ombudsman, etc. OPA testified in support of these agencies. . This bill died in committee.
- Provided testimony on Mental Health Parity and Charter Oak Health Plan.
- Bill on notification to OPA of deaths of DMHAS clients is on the floor of the house and looks favorable for passage.
- Bill on residential care homes was killed in committee. Discussion of other strategies for next year.
- He reported on two other bills of interest: videotaping of custodial interrogations and DOC integration of their community programs to serve persons with disabilities. The videotaping bill died in committee.

#### Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney’s Report

- Bolmer – No offers of settlement by DMHAS. June 11, 2009 OPA brief is due in the Second Circuit. NDRN will do an amicus brief on damages under Title II of the ADA.
- New Horizons – Nancy reported that OPA received a good decision by the judge. The judge held that the case goes to the core of the Fair Housing Act. The judge affirmed OPA’s standing and capacity to bring legal action on behalf of its constituents. New Horizons was found to be in violation of the Fair Housing Act by requiring the disclosure of complete medical history at application and on an ongoing basis. The judge affirmed that people who move to New Horizons don’t lose their civil rights. At the end of May 2009, a scheduling conference is scheduled. Defendants have asked permission of the judge to appeal the summary judgment given to the named plaintiff.
- OPA v CT – No legal updates.

#### Susan Werboff – Program Director’s Report

- Advocated for expansion of internal review officers for forced med hearings at Yale and the IOL. New hearing officers have been added to the list.
- Susan W. and Karen Kangas presented at Grand Rounds on March 25, 2009 at the IOL. It was well received.
- Susan W. has been in contact with DMHAS to obtain overall restraint and seclusion data for all DMHAS facilities. DMHAS is working on collecting the data and has plans to put the data on their website at some time in the future. Susan W. sent the email from DMHAS to Susan

- Reported on a meeting with Jerome Frank Legal Clinic from Yale New Haven about prisoners with mental health issues and on psychiatric medications.
- Received a serious injury report from DCF of a suicide attempt in seclusion at Riverview Hospital. No information was distributed to the Council as Susan W. received the information the day before.
- Reported on an incident at the IOL in which a male patient fractured his arm due to restraint incident. The IOL argued that 2007 amendments to the statute narrowed the statute to only include public schools not private facilities. Nancy A. said that the reporting requirements include reporting all physical injuries to DPH (not just serious injuries). Nancy A. has been negotiating with Shipman and Goodwin about the statute and its applicability to Hartford Hospital.
- Susan W. reported that she and Jim McGaughey met with DMHAS regarding the closing of Cedarcrest.

## **OTHER OLD BUSINESS**

### **PAIMI Membership**

The PAIMI Advisory Council voted on removing Mark Griffin. A recommendation was made to the Executive Director, James McGaughey to write Mr. Griffin a letter removing him from the Council.

### **CVH & DOJ Settlement**

The PAIMI Advisory Council has not sent a letter yet. There is a settlement conference in May 2009. Susan A. agreed to forward current information to Walt W. and Susan W. to assist in writing a letter from the Council.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Physical Health Care Project**

There was a long discussion over the latest proposal of a 12 month wellness program. Walt W. will organize a meeting at Prime Time with the administration to discuss implementation of the project at Prime Time. Selena W. and Susan A. will attend with Walt W.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2009 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Werboff

c: James McGaughey  
Gretchen Knauff  
Nancy Alisberg