

## **PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 10:00 a.m. on February 2, 2010 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Michaela Mitchell, Selina Welborn, Josefa Correa, Sandy Chapman, Muriel Tomer, Lorna Grivois, Barbara Sloan, Alicia Woodsby and Elizabeth Larsen (by telephone)

Guests: Wallace Peterson, Bristol and Rosina Smith, Glastonbury

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 10:12 a.m. by Selina Welborn, Chairperson. The minutes were reviewed from the December 1, 2009 meeting. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Reported that he has written to the Food and Drug Administration about Electro Convulsive Therapy de-regulation. He distributed a copy of his letter.
- Testified before the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) about the closure of Cedarcrest Hospital. Selina W. asked James McGaughey to report on his position. James McG. said OPA supported the closure with reservations. OHCA has 90 days to make a decision. This should occur by March 14, 2010. There was a discussion over the hearing process before OHCA and the Cedarcrest closure. According to Micheala M. of CLRP no patients are being transferred from Cedarcrest until OHCA decides on the certificate of need.

### Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney’s Report

- OPA v CT – Nancy A. reported that there has been no action from the federal court in response to the Department of Justice’s amicus brief.

It has been one year since the case was briefed. Previously, there was a mechanism to move cases along but it no longer exists. It can be normal to wait over a year for a decision.

- Bolmer v. Oliveira – On November 13, 2009 oral argument occurred. Still waiting for a decision.
- LaFlamme v. New Horizons Village – OPA and CT Fair Housing Center received the first report from the court monitor. Reports are to include information on the application of new tenants and requests for reasonable accommodations. No new tenants have moved into New Horizons. No requests for reasonable accommodations have been made. The two other cases against New Horizons were settled. One case is a PAIMI client and the other is not.
- Susan W. asked Nancy A. to discuss residential care home discharge hearings. There have been several hearings lately. Nancy A. stated that advocates/paralegals cannot provide representation at these hearings. OPA attorneys have been representing these residents at discharge hearings in collaboration with the advocates. OPA is submitting legislation again this year to allow advocates to represent residents at these hearings.

### Susan Werboff – Program Director’s Report

- Reviewed reporting forms on injuries from restraint and seclusion. Distributed all the reports received.
- Reviewed DMHAS restraint report on usage in their facilities.
- Updated the Council on upcoming meetings with DCF and DSS Medicaid Unit regarding reporting by Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities of serious injuries, incidents, suicide attempts and deaths.
- Summarized the PAIMI Program Performance Report (PPR) and sent the summary to all Council members.
- Picture identification – Susan W. handed Sandy C. and Josefa C. their picture identification. Selina initially could not locate her identification. When she did locate the picture identification, her name was spelled incorrectly. Susan W. and Sherri M. will obtain a corrected identification badge for Selina W.
- Introduced Wallace T. Peterson III and Rosina Smith as potential members for the Council to consider. Rosina was just observing the meeting for today. Susan W. distributed Wallace’s completed nomination form. Wallace P. introduced himself and described why he would like

to be on the Council. He was then asked to leave the room. Discussion on Wallace P.'s nomination. Selina W. called for a vote on his nomination. He was voted onto the Council unanimously. He returned to the room and was congratulated and welcomed to the Council.

- Corrie Morse is no longer responding to Council activities so a new member representing service providers is needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Psychiatric Report Card Update

Susan W. summarized the project. Selina W. and Alicia W. toured the Institute of Living (IOL), Hartford Hospital on February 1, 2010. They toured four units of the Donnelly building as a team. Selina W. noted the lack of patient involvement in treatment plan. Selina W. also noted that the rights are posted but no information on how to make a complaint or get an advocate. No telephone numbers are posted for advocates. Alicia said it was clear that staff put together the treatment plan without the patient's involvement; presented it to the patient and put in the record. No comfort/crisis plans either are done.

- Alicia W. toured Todd House separately. The survey instrument is not appropriate for use at a unit/location that is not an inpatient unit. Alicia reported that the residence felt like another locked unit. All her questions were referred to Capitol Region.

### Discussion of results:

Susan W. will draft a thank you letter to the IOL from Selina W. and Alicia W. The IOL was interested in feedback from the report cards and it was decided that feedback would be given to each facility so they can work on changing problem areas. Susan will collect the report cards from all the Council members and write a report about the visit.

Yale New Haven Hospital, psychiatric hospital will be toured on February 11, 2010, by Lorna G. and Barbara S. Backus Hospital will be toured by Elizabeth L. and Micheala M. A date has yet to be scheduled for Backus Hospital.

New assignments will be made by Susan W. based upon time availability of the Council members and upon completion of each facility tour. Josefa C. and Sandy C. will be included as a third member of a team.

Susan W. agreed to put together outreach information on PAIMI and rights for each team to bring to the facility.

Discussion ensued over treatment of physical health care issues in emergency departments at general hospitals. The discussion was tabled until the April 6, 2010 Council meeting.

Susan W. presented the Riverview Hospital proposal to the Council. A copy of the proposal was given to each Council member. It fits into the goals and priorities established by the PAIMI Council.

Nancy A. asked what, if anything, has been initiated with DCF regarding access to children and records. Susan W. deferred to James McG. for a response. He responded that we are still having internal discussions at OPA.

Lorna G. asked if parents are notified that the children are being interviewed. Susan W. stated that she has provided a letter to Riverview Hospital for parents. Riverview administration sends the letter to the parents of any child involved with OPA/PAIMI.

The Council supports the initiative.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Werboff

c: James McGaughey  
Gretchen Knauff  
Nancy Alisberg