

PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

The PAIMI Advisory Council met at 9:30 a.m. on March 8, 2011 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Muriel Tomer, Elizabeth Larsen, Barbara Sloan, and Alicia Woodsby

Absence: Sandy Chapman, Wallace Peterson and Lorna Grivois

Guests: Roy Lee, Kirk Lowry, Marcia McIntosh, Jennifer Henry, Marisa Walls, Tom Behrendt

Staff: Bruce Garrison, PAIMI Assistant Program Director, James McGaughey, Executive Director, Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director, Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney, Jessica Rival, PAIMI Human Services Advocate and Eveleen McDonald, Community Advocacy Specialist

Call to Order

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Approval of the December 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and corrections were made. Alicia W. made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes. Elizabeth L. seconded the motion.

New Council Members Vote

Bruce G. handed out copies of the PAIMI bylaws to everyone present.

After introductions were made of everyone present, the guests were excused so that a vote on the candidates for new Council members can be held. There was an extensive review of the potential new members. There were 6 slots open on the Council, but were 8 candidates. The Council then discussed the idea of expanding the Advisory Council because all of the candidates had valuable experience to bring to the Council. There were no objections to the expansion.

Elizabeth L. motioned to vote on all nominations. All present were in agreement. James McG. will send an appointment letter to each new member.

Muriel T. informed the candidates of their acceptance onto the PAIMI Advisory Council and the Council's expectations of their attendance at all the Council meetings unless they have been excused. She also informed them that if they couldn't attend the meeting to call in advance so arrangements could be made for them to participate by teleconference, if possible.

James McGaughey – Executive Director's Report

- James McG. reported that there was a lot of testimony before the General Assembly. Education Committee – There is an alarming rise of restraint and seclusion in the school systems. There is a bill on Individualized Educational Plans and seclusion is included as part of the bill. Jim will be having a meeting with the Acting Commissioner of the State Department of Education (SDOE) to question about why OPA only receive reports but no one is looking into the incidents.

Alicia W. stated that NAMI was able to get a meeting with the Education Chairperson, Representative Fleischman. The Chairperson was in agreement with their recommendations for the most part but he wanted to change the definition of seclusion to be more therapeutic.

- The closing of Riverview Hospital – There is also legislation that would close Riverview as a cost saving measure. Jim testified and emphasized that the focus should be on the needs of the needs of the children served. There were 2 days of hearing on approving government efficiency. James McG. wanted to share an edited version of the Klingberg report with them.
- Budget Information – The Governor's proposed budget includes a 10% reduction in OPA's workforce. No other agency, other than the Child Advocate's Office, has taken such a hit. OPA is already working with 20% fewer staff then 10 years ago. Jim reported that he met with OPA's budget subcommittee but did not feel the meeting was successful. Beth Bye, one of the co-chairs of the subcommittee and someone familiar with the work and structure of OPA, was not present for the meeting. Unfortunately.

Elizabeth L. asked James McG. if there was anything that the Council could do. She recommended that the Council get something together to bring to Ms. Bye in support of OPA. Elizabeth L., Tom B., Muriel T., and Barbara S. agreed to meet so that the Council could develop a statement to bring to Ms. Bye.

- James McG. was notified that the FDA decided that manufacturers must demonstrate that the new ECT models are safe before they will be allowed to put them on the market. Allowing new models to come on the market without reviewing that they meet safety requirements is dangerous. FDA says that manufacturers have to show that the equipment doesn't hurt anyone.

- In the not so distant future, the Hartford Courant will be doing a story about mental health services in prisons. They wanted to center the article on UConn's contract with the Department of Connection. The reporter had gotten the point that there are limited resources available that can make change happen within the prison system.

Nancy Alisberg – Managing Attorney's Report

- **OPA v. CT** – We continue to be enmeshed in discovery and disputes related to discovery with both the defendants and the nursing homes. We have been directed to use the services of the para-judicial officer to try to resolve all outstanding disputes. The first meeting is on March 1, 2011. The state's appeal of the favorable decision in the New York case was argued and we are waiting for a decision.
- **Bolmer v. Oliveira** – The attorneys' fees were resolved in the case against DMHAS. We continue to wait for a decision from the judge regarding our request to appeal the case against Danbury Hospital.
- **Gross v. Rell** – Still waiting for an argument date.
- **VOPA v. Stewart** – We are still waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court.

PAIMI Program Update

Bruce recommended that the Council abandon the current agenda due to time restraints. He then referred the Council to the Work Plan.

Review PAIMI Work Plan

Bruce G. stated that the bulk of the work that the PAIMI Unit is doing is from Goal 1. Bruce stated that PAIMI needed willing Council members to help out in fulfilling the obligation in the other Goals.

Goal 4, Objective 1 – “Putting the Pieces Together” - Muriel T., Eveleen McD. and Jessica R. Eveleen McD. gave an update on the first meeting held on March 1, 2011. There was much interest in working as a team. There will be a forum in a DMHAS social club and the Health Care Advocate will participate in this forum, which is a part of Goal 3. The Connecticut Providers Association was also present at the meeting. Three parents from AFCAMP and a representative from UConn will be attending the next meeting. PAIMI's goal is to do a training for children in a residential care facility. The organizations being brought together under the same curriculum will outreach to children and educators.

Muriel T. stated that they are trying to get a variety of agencies together. She requested for members on the Council to participate.

Bruce G. stated that the use of the report card needs to be reenergized. Elizabeth L. stated that Dr. O’Dea has been replaced by Justin Sleeper, Nurse. Bruce G. stated that there is a list of other facilities that report cards need to be completed.

Goal 2, Objective 2 – lists agencies that are required to report to OPA. OPA/PAIMI is concerned about the number of incidences reported. Therefore, PAIMI has started conducting investigations into these incidents. PAIMI wants to bring attention to the system and get the responsible state agencies to monitor the restraint and seclusion activities of service providers and to assist the providers with developing alternative interventions. Hopefully, these reports will stimulate some change. SDOE doesn’t have any guidelines on restraint and seclusion. OPA/PAIMI is hoping that these reports will also get the attention of the policymakers. Marisa W. stated that she would like to help with Goal 4, Objective 4.

Tom B. stated that DMHAS is looking for training on how to do face down restraint techniques. It was stated that this practice is no longer used.

James McG. stated that a meeting will be held on this issue with SDOE. SAMSHA has some good material on this use. OPA is planning to sponsor a conference the dangers of restraint and seclusion this summer. It will be held in the New Haven area. Jim gave an example of a death caused by restraint. A man was restrained for 4-5 days and collapsed during transport of an aneurism.

ADJOURNMENT

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Martin
PAIMI Secretary

c: James McGaughey
Gretchen Knauff
Nancy Alisberg