

**BRIDGEPORT REAL CHOICE COMMUNITY INCLUSION
TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2004**

Place: City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Wheeler Room A & B, Bridgeport, CT

Present: Marta Bisciglia, Kathleen Hunter, Fred Frank, Jimmy Smith, Brenda Dye, Judy Marella, Loretta Williams, Jill Bruno, Mike Boyer, Tammy Papa, Pat Delcegno, Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Mary Bruce, Brenda Dye, Emma P. Schulman, Lynn Egan, Karen Roseman, April Griffin, and Jeri Boyd.

Guests: Christine Gaynor, Paul Ford, and Stan Kosloski

Absent: Gloria Davis, Marie Bennett, Iris Molina, Pat Balazsi, Bert Carter, Roberta Yegidis, Adeline DeMarrais, Laura Micklus, Valerie Sorrentino, Ethel Miller-Reith, Richard Hudson, Donna Franchini-Sparago, Dorothy Grant, Anthony LaCava, Jowanne Jackson, Rev. David Miller, Rev. Harry Carrillo.

Karen Roseman called the Real Choice Community Inclusion Task Force Meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. She gave remarks of welcome to the new staff member at UCONN, Stan Kosloski.

Karen called for the approval of minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Marta Bisciglia and seconded by Jill Bruno. The decision to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Presentation to: Task Force by Paul Ford, Nursing Facilities Transition Grant Coordinator of the Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living (CACIL)

Olmstead Decision driving system's change – Olmstead stated that everyone is entitled to live in the least restrictive environment

Overview of System Change Grants

Real Choice- including Model Cities
Medicaid Infrastructure-Community Bridging-Cash& Counseling
Nursing Facility Transition Grant

Centers for Independent Living and CACIL

Independent Living (IL) philosophy is Consumer Control—The Core Services offered at ILCs are: Information and Referral, Advocacy, Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Counseling. In addition, ILCs

offer the Connecticut Tech Act Project, the Nursing Facility Transition Grant and other projects individual centers initiate. Center for Bridgeport is Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County located at 80 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford, Connecticut.

CACIL is a membership association for the five Connecticut Independent Living Centers and works for Center's interests and projects, which may be larger than a single center alone could manage.

Nursing Facility Transition Grant (NFTG)

Two Goals:

- Design a system for individuals who want to leave a facility
- Demonstrate through 150 transitions from nursing facilities to the community

The NFTG is consumer driven through a **steering committee and work groups**, combined with feedback from consumers and ILCs through their Transition Coordinator. (Coordinators are the responsible individual for working with consumers to transition from nursing facilities and they are usually people with disabilities themselves.)

Outreach to Residents of Nursing Facilities-Informing residents of their choices.

Peer Support-Key element of Independent Living. Linking individuals who have had similar experiences, mentoring.

Outreach to Professionals-Inform Legal, Medical & Social Professions about community options.

Common Sense Fund-For short-term needs unmet by existing systems, gap identification.

Transition Coordinators- One-on-One assistance to help plan & implement a move to the community including coordination of community services.

UCONN-Report- Chris Gaynor reported on upcoming events, beginning with the focus group to meet on Friday, April 2, 2004 to discuss recruitment on (PCA) meeting time is 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The contact person is Andy Bate. He can be reached at 1-860-679-1500. There may be some collaboration with DMR and BRS. The website for UCEDD is operational, and a survey about Community Inclusion is also online. The web site is:

<http://www.uconned.org/real/realhome.htm>

Team Reports

Public Attitude Team –Karen Roseman reported that she and Tony LaCava, along with Democracy Works staff met with the Mayor’s staff. They are investigating the development of a website and further discuss on board training. The invitations are prepared for the Board Training meeting and just requires Committee approval. Once invitations are approved, they will be shared with other task force members. The next Public Attitudes meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2004 at 10:00 am. At Family Services Woodfield.

Housing Team - Kathleen Hunter reported that the Housing Team focused on the Bridgeport Public Housing (BHA) Agency Plan that shows how resources are allocated in Bridgeport with an emphasis on Section 8 rental assistance and Public Housing programs. There was discussion on BHA’s standards for providing housing for persons with disabilities. These standards are placed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that requires Public Housing Authorities (PHA) to make their programs and activities accessible to persons with disabilities and provide a self-evaluation and transition plan. Jonas DeGuzman and Judit Grof-Tisza, acting Executive Director, reviewed the PHA Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2003 that was designated for public housing and the occupancy by elderly families or families with disabilities or both. The formal designation of housing for persons with disabilities is determined by a review of a waiting list. There was a discussion on the problems that arise when a mixture of elderly and disabled non-elderly residents live in densely populated communities. It was agreed that there was a need to have additional and more accessible housing for people with disabilities. Other discussions included how people can get physically accessible subsidized housing, was there a need to inquire about a person’s disability and proof of such, and the need to approve higher payments for Section 8 Vouchers.

Resource and Information Gap Team – Marta Bisciglia reported that the magnets for the community have been finalized at a price of thirty-eight cent each. A quantity of 10,000 is expected to be ordered. The magnets will be targeted toward the adult population. The youth at Central High School gave feedback on what they thought and they decided on an address book, which could be personalized for their own use.

Diminishing Infrastructure- Jeri Boyd and Lynn Egan reported that they are looking for new committee members. One committee member has recently resigned. The team’s focus is on reviewing their goals and building committee membership, in addition to, increasing the access to advocacy by ten percent. Jeri stated that the office applied for CDBG funds and is currently collecting letters of support for the application.

Old Business –None reported.

New Business –None reported.

Meeting adjourned by Karen Roseman at 12:15 pm.

The next Meeting of Bridgeport Real Choice Task Force will be on May 14, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Wheeler Room A and B.

Respectfully Submitted,

April S. Griffin
Community Inclusion Specialist