

Community Support Network, Inc.
Board of Directors
March 5, 2003

Present = XX; Absent = OO

XX Region 1, Dennis MacKay	XX Region 7, Paul Boynton
XX Region 2, Mark Mills	XX Region 8, Bob James
XX Region 3, Rich Crocker	XX Region 9, Brian Collins
XX Region 4, Roy Gerstenberger	XX Region 10, Jane Dichard
XX Region 5, Alan Greene	XX Region 11, Peter Blue
XX Region 6, Sandy Pelletier	XX Region 12, Bruce Pacht
XX Family Representative, Dan Louney	
XX Provider Representative, Bill Schofield	
XX Provider Representative, Laura Rauscher	
XX Executive Director, Jay Haines	

President Alan Greene calls the meeting to order at 10:10 AM at Region 4, Bow, NH.

1. CSNI Benefits Administration Contract. Jay reviews the purpose of the pre-mailed proposed agreement as drafted by Counsel for CSNI. In regards to questions raised via e-mail by R2, we are collectively clear that each region needs to be able to make their own business decisions and should be accountable for only their own errors and omissions. Several other portions of the contract are discussed. Next steps: Jay will incorporate the changes as discussed and mail to all regions with a vote and signing scheduled for our April meeting.
2. Gordon Allen/D.D. Council issue. R4 reports on a strategy for working with the DD Council around calls to the Council from families with waitlist concerns. If the family has not yet spoken with the appropriate area agency, the DDC will refer them. If the family has spoken with the area agency, the DDC will get the following information: 1) age of the individual; 2) disability; 3) town of residence; 4) services requested; 5) the family's contact at the area agency; 6) waitlist status of the individual. The DDC will then give the family referral information including the appropriate Legislator.
3. Regulations adjustment task group. R9 reports on the task group report (previously sent to Board members). HeM 1201 takes up most of our discussion time. There are concerns that interpretations of the standard are becoming more expansive in ways that seem to lack any practical grounding in the regulation itself or in a significant body of region-specific issues. Also problematic is the fact that there seems to be a single interpretative voice from the Division with strong emphasis on the Nurse Practice Act and the exposure of Nurse Trainers. We agree that there should be an expanded/group process for dealing with interpretative responses. We agree that the ideas presented in the paper are good ones from the Governor's announced "de-regulation" perspective but we cannot emphasize a strong cost savings at this point. Dan Louney cautions that strong emphasis on de-regulation

can lead organizations to swing further in this direction than intended with a negative impact on quality of service. R3 notes that the State regulatory perspective is protection of health and safety – so, could this accountability devolve to the regional level? We should also continue this regulation review to include family support regs and others. Next steps: Additional comments relative to HeM 1201 will be added to the paper and R9 will mention our regulatory review to the HHS Commissioner next week when they meet for lunch. **R3 moves, R1 seconds, that this document be revised as discussed and transmitted to Dennis Powers from CSNI over R9's signature as chair of the workgroup with a note that additional review documents will follow. Votes in the affirmative: R1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Votes in the negative: R12. The motion is passed.**

Linda Steir and Jim Bouley join the meeting.

4. Legislative review. Jim Bouley reviews progress on the three legislative priorities established by the Board.
 - a. Action on the waitlist. A House bill (\$17 million) has been sponsored and is in play. There was good turnout at a hearing last week – a big improvement over the last two years. This is just the start of this campaign. Interestingly enough, there was also an obscurely titled waitlist bill on the Senate side but it is not clear if this is a sincere effort.
 - b. Forensic bill. There was a 3/04/03 hearing before the Criminal Justice Committee. These legislators, while not especially tuned in to DD issues, did understand that there is a serious problem here – we successfully educated a new group! This bill will be retained, i.e. kept alive for study through this calendar year with recommendations to the full House next January. This is a positive development. The Committee will be looking to us for suggestions. Jay will get a copy of an extensive report on this issue already compiled by the Division and AA staff.
 - c. The budget. Jim reports that the Public Policy group is developing a strong analysis on the negative impact of the Governor's budget to include regional stories. This group will be developing a core message for families to share with legislators. It is suggested that we use the key impact points already presented by Dennis Powers for consistency of message. Jim notes that, even though there is a Republican super majority in both House and Senate, the Republicans are beginning to subdivide and we do have some sympathetic ears. There may well be three slightly different messages coming from the perspectives of families, AA staff and AA Boards. While the waitlist story is fairly straight forward (a dynamic indicator of under funding), the story about under funded infrastructure and the resulting decline in quality is more complicated to convey.

- d. Jim also notes HB 770 dealing with a 25% Business Enterprise tax credit for those employing people with developmental disabilities. Jim and Linda leave.
5. AA Boards advocacy meeting. This is all set for Monday, 3/10/05. Jim Bouley will attend briefly with current legislative information.
6. Family representative report. No report.
7. Provider representative report. Bill Schofield advises that the PPN met last week to discuss concerns about the budget picture and potential impacts on providers, especially the smaller providers. Letters will be coming to the area agencies expressing provider concerns and their interest in being an active part of the budget reduction discussions. A letter will also be sent to the Governor introducing the PPN and their scope of business.
8. Executive Director report.
 - a. The PR firm Highpoint Communications has submitted a proposal for a product to represent/enhance the CSNI image and present our concerns around funding issues. The executive committee will review this.
 - b. April is the target date for HIPAA compliance around the confidentiality requirements. The task group is making good progress.
 - c. CSNI budget. The current operating budget of \$285,000 is funded by area agency (\$182,000), DDS funding for quality outcomes work and CSNI-generated revenue. Jay's goal for the coming year is to increase CSNI-generated revenue and decrease the AA cost share by 10%. He needs regional input if any regions are considering a unilateral dues reduction in the face of budget pressures. Apparently some regional boards have questioned the continuation of CSNI dues. R9 suggests that the FY04 budget be redrawn based on operational decisions made at the CSNI retreat.
 - d. Consent agenda. There is no discussion and the following are approved: CSNI financials for January 31, 2003. CSNI Board Minutes for February 5, 2003, CSNI Executive Committee Minutes for February 19, 2003.
9. Other.
 - a. ESS reimbursement methodology. R3 has raised a question about the Division approach being consistent with federal regulations. We also note that the FY04 ESS budget numbers have not yet been released.
 - b. R1 notes that a recent federal initiative on block grant funding for disability programs sounds attractive on the front end in terms of new resources but could grow into a disaster later on with required paybacks.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Minutes by Peter Blue