



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Commission on Children

Minutes of Meeting Connecticut Commission on Children

10 a.m. to Noon, Tuesday, November 15, 2011
Room 2-D, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Voting members present: M. Alex Geertsma, Mary Grace Reed, Laura Lee Simon, James P. Cordier, Robert Francis, Donald Green, Jordan Grossman, Alison Hilding, Barbara J. Ruhe, and Valeri Whitmer.

Voting members absent: George A. Coleman, Mary K. Fox, Andrew D. Gibson, Josh Piteo, Justine Rakich-Kelly (excused), Ron D. Ward.

Ex-officio members present: Dr. Jewel Mullen and Rosa M. Biaggi for the Department of Public Health; Rod O'Connor for the Department of Developmental Services; Janice Gruendel for the Department of Children and Families; Anne Foley for the Office of Policy & Management; Sylvia Gafford-Alexander for the Department of Social Services.

Ex-officio members absent: Attorney General, Department of Education, Chief Court Administrator, Department of Correction.

Commission staff present: Elaine Zimmerman, Thomas R. Brooks, Dawn Homer-Bouthiette, Mary Kate Lowndes, Kevin Flood, Edie Luciano, Thomas Shusterman (intern), and Lizzey Korengold (intern).

'Big Hopes, Big Challenges: Connecticut Children and the 2012 Legislative Session'

Chairman Geertsma welcomed Commission members and guests, then asked Executive Director Elaine Zimmerman to moderate a panel discussion on the children's issues expected to come before the General Assembly session that begins in February. The panel, in addition to Commission members, included: Dr. Jewell Mullen, Commissioner, Department of Public Health (DPH); Jeanne Milstein, Child Advocate; Representative Gary Holder-Winfield of New Haven, Chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus; Anne Foley, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Senator Beth Bye of West Hartford, Co-Chair of Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee; Representative Diana Urban of North Stonington, Co-Chair, Select Committee on Children; Janice Gruendel, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Children and Families (DCF); Karen Jarmoc, Interim

Executive Director, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Jessica Sager,
Executive Director, All Our Kin Inc.

Approval of minutes

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting.

Adjournment

Dr. Geertsma adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

DRAFT