



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Commission on Children

Minutes of Meeting

Connecticut Commission on Children

Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Room 2-A, Legislative Office Building, Hartford

Voting members present: Mary K. Fox, Dr. M. Alex Geertsma, Senator Jonathan A. Harris, Alison Hilding, Josh Piteo, Mary Grace Reed, Barbara J. Ruhe, Representative Toni E. Walker, and John Yrchik.

Voting members absent: George A. Coleman, James P. Cordier, Judith Busch, Representative Andrew M. Fleischmann, Senator Andrew J. McDonald, and Laura Lee Simon.

Ex-officio members present: Rudy Brooks, for the Department of Children and Families; Mary Marcial, for the Department of Correction; and Anne Foley, for the Office of Policy and Management.

Ex-officio members absent: Attorney General, Chief Court Administrator, Department of Public Health, Department of Education, Department of Developmental Services, and Department of Social Services.

Commission staff present: Elaine Zimmerman, Thomas Brooks, Elizabeth Brown, Patricia Estill, Kevin Flood, Dawn Homer- Bouthiette, and Rachel Levy.

Handouts: Agenda; draft minutes of the January 13 and March 10 meetings; "Resource Guide to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," from the office of U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd; General Assembly File No. 333, Substitute House Bill No. 6411, An Act Concerning a Reduction in Child Poverty and Investment in Prevention; Substitute Bill No. 6402, An Act Concerning HUSKY Reform; state Department of Education PowerPoint presentation, "American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) Stimulus Package," April 6, 2009; New York Times article, "Recession Stalls State-Financed Pre-Kindergarten, but Federal Money May Help"; "ARRA Education and Early Childhood Panel," by Richard A. Sussman, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving"; "Connecticut Stimulus Funding Update," April 7 revision.

Meeting convened

Dr. Geertsma convened the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Children and Families in Recession: The Policy and Budget Implications

The Commission heard a panel discussion, moderated by Executive Director Elaine Zimmerman, with presentations from the following speakers:

Carol Walter, Executive Director, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

Topic: Housing: What's a Family to Do?

Lucy P. Nolan, Executive Director, End Hunger Connecticut!

Topic: Food Security: The Impact of Hunger

James Boucher, Future Workforce Division Director, Capital Workforce Partners

Topic Jobs for Youth in Hard Times

Dr. M. Alex Geertsma, Chair of Pediatrics, St. Mary Hospital, Waterbury

Topic: Family Health and Wellness

East Hartford Mayor Melody A. Currey and parent Gwen Samuel

Topic: Community Perspective:

Representatives Marie Kirkley-Bey, Representative Toni Walker, and Senator Jonathan Harris

Topic: State budget and policies

Adoption of Minutes

The Commission voted unanimously to accept the draft minutes of the January 13 and March 10, without changes.

Adjournment

Dr. Geertsma adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. M. Alex Geertsma,
Chair