



## State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

### Children's Mental Health Task Force

MINUTES

November 6, 2013

**Co-chairs:** Sen. Dante Bartolomeo and Rep. Diana Urban

**Attended by:** Dr. Karalyn Kinsella, Dr. Irvin R. Jennings, Dr. Charles Newfield, Gracelyn Guyol, Dr. Alice M. Forrester, Dr. Myron Genel, Dr. Charles F. Caley, Tina Fox Dugdale, Sen. Art Linares, Rep. Whit Betts

**Members Absent:** None

The meeting convened at 11:06 AM.

Sen. Bartolomeo called the meeting to order noting that three new appointments have been filled since the first meeting. She asked members to briefly introduce themselves.

Tina Fox Dugdale, RDN, stated she has worked many years as a nurse and now as a dietician. She is a faculty appointment in the dietician program at UCONN, Storrs. She has worked many years with families and after-school programs. Food and nutrition are important factors in helping families and children.

Dr. Alice M. Forrester: Executive Director of the Clifford Beers Clinic. It is a 100 year-old mental health agency in New Haven.

Dr. Charles F. Caley stated he is a Clinical Professor in the School of Pharmacology at UCONN. He has an office based in the Institute of Living for clinical psychopharmacology consulting and teaching. He is aware of the difficulties that medicines can bring to patients' lives. He is the Governor's appointment to the task force through the recommendation of the Dean's office at UCONN.

Sen. Art Linares stated that this work on children's mental health is very important and he hears from constituents that more needs to be done on this issue. It has been great to work with the chairs of the Committee on Children.

Dr. Myron "Mike" Genel stated that he is Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine. His training includes the fields of genetics and inherited metabolic disease. He is Sen. Marty Looney's appointment to the task force. He was the former Chairman of the AMA's Council on Scientific Affairs which put forward a review of ADHD. Also, he is past president of the CT Academy of Science and Engineering and, until recently, served on the CT Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee.

Dr. Irvin R. Jennings stated he is a child psychiatrist and Executive Medical Director of Family and Children's Aid in Danbury.

Dr. Karalyn Kinsella stated she is a general pediatrician in Cheshire where she has worked for the past 12 years. She is a UCONN School of Medicine graduate. As with other pediatricians, she is on the front lines of children's mental health issues.

Dr. Charles Newfield stated that he is the Director of Behavioral Services at the Institute of Professional Practice. They provide services to adults and children in over 40 school districts. One area of focus, among others, is treating children with autism.

Sen. Bartolomeo stated that she and Rep. Urban have discussed how to proceed with task force. In order to make the work of the task force more manageable, we will organize into four focus groups (as outlined in the legislation) – Nutrition, Genetics, Complementary & Alternative Treatments and Psychotropic Drugs. Will let everyone self-select the focus group they are most interested in working on. Each focus group will then look at their topic area across three different medical disorders or conditions chosen by the task force. The three chosen conditions should be varied enough and data rich.

An in-depth discussion regarding what medical conditions should be chosen followed. Among the conditions discussed were OCD, depression, ADHD, anxiety, behavioral conduct, autism and mood disorders.

Sen. Bartolomeo explained Section 8 of PA 13-178 outlining the charge of the task force. By September 30, 2014, the task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of Children and Families and to the Committee on Children.

Three conditions chosen: ADHD, Mood Disorders, and Behavioral Conduct Disorder

Sen. Bartolomeo asked members which focus group they would like to work on.

Nutrition focus group: Tina Dugdale and Sen. Linares volunteered.

Genetics focus group: Dr. Genel, Dr. Forrester and Dr. Kinsella volunteered.

Complementary & Alternative Treatments focus group: Gracelyn Guyol and Rep. Betts volunteered.

Psychotropic Drugs focus group: Dr. Newfield, Dr. Jennings and Dr. Caley volunteered.

Sen. Bartolomeo stated that moving forward members of each focus group could get together and share data between meetings. Task Force meetings will meet generally once a month. Each of the four focus groups may have a presenter who could be a member of the focus group or invited presenter. Each group will give 10 minute updates. Meetings will be scheduled for two hours.

Upcoming meetings (two hours each) were announced:

Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 11:00 AM in Room 2A

Wednesday, January 15, 2014, 11:00 AM in Room 2A

Rep. Urban noted that Gracelyn Guyol suggested creating folders on a subject we're reviewing. These folders could contain information the focus group will discuss at the meeting. This could be a time effective way of sharing data and information.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.