



**State of Connecticut PA 13-178
Children's Behavioral Health Plan
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**March 24, 2014
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
ValueOptions**

**Meeting Summary and Notes
Submitted By Co-Chairs: Judith Meyers and Doriana Vicedomini**

Members Present: Ronald Angoff, Anne Melissa Dowling, Sarah Eagan, Pamela Ferguson, Hector Glynn, Bill Halsey, Winston Johnson, Myra Jones-Taylor, Allon Kalisher, Mark Keenan, Steve Korn, Andrew Lustbader, Nelba Marquez-Greene, Melissa Mendez, Judith Meyers, Morna Murray, Janet Ortiz, Bert Plant, Patricia Rehmer, Charlene Russell-Tucker, Ann Smith, Stephen Tracy, Victoria Veltri, Doriana Vicedomini, Fred Volkmar, Celeste Warner, Mark White, Jesse White-Frese, Elaine Zimmerman

Members Absent: Abby Anderson, Pat Baker, Tanya Barrett, Jenifer Bogin, Daniel Connor, Yoellie Iglesias, Peter Panzarella

Others Present: Robert Franks, Steven Hernandez, Michael Hoge, Tim Marshall, Kristina Stevens, Jeff Vanderploeg, Michael Williams

Doriana Vicedomini convened the meeting at 2:30.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Doriana Vicedomini welcomed the members to the Advisory Committee and introduced Michael Williams, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Williams added his welcome to the Committee members and expressed appreciation for their contribution of time and expertise to this important process.
- Committee members introduced themselves, talked about their professional roles and experiences relevant to children's mental health in Connecticut and many shared information about how issues of children's mental health have touched them both professionally and personally.

II. Review Role and Purpose of Advisory Committee

- Judith Meyers reviewed the key tenets of Public Act 13-178 and the Advisory Committee's purpose -- to provide guidance on the development of the plan and review and approve its elements before presented for comment to the public and final submission to the legislature by October 1. She emphasized that the plan needs to be practical and feasible and provide a blueprint for the future.

III. Structure, Process and Timeline for Plan Development

- Michael Hoge, Tim Marshall, Bob Franks and Jeff Vanderploeg, key staff facilitating the development of the plan, reviewed the methods being used to gather input. These include a synthesis of information and recommendations on children's mental health in Connecticut developed over the past 13 years, facilitated discussion groups on specific topics, meetings with groups of parents, public forums, written input, and self-guided discussion groups.

- Jeff Vanderploeg demonstrated the layout and content of a website that has been designed and created to provide information and facilitate communication (<http://www.plan4children.org>).

IV. Discussion

- Key points raised in the discussion were the following:
 - Nelba Marquez-Greene encouraged the group to hold a Community Conversation in Sandy Hook, and/or find other appropriate ways to ensure that we bring information about this process and the results back to that community.
 - Ann Smith suggested specifically engaging members of Faith Based Communities
 - Hoge and Vanderploeg indicated that they would send the list of topic areas to committee members and note any areas in which we needed recommendations for host groups or participants.
 - Advisory Committee members requested that staff format, post and email members the instructions for conducting self-guided discussions.
 - All committee members were asked to assist in disseminating information about the plan and information gathering opportunities to their various professional groups and networks. Marshall stated that all Committee members should consider themselves deputized to conduct self-guided discussions.
 - A request was made to post, with the final plan itself, notes from facilitated discussions and open forms so that members of the public can see recommendations that did and did not make it into the plan

V. Next Steps

- Meyers reviewed the next steps in the plan development that will coincide with the work of the Advisory Committee at their next meetings. The staff will present a synthesis of themes and emerging ideas for review and discussion from the information gathering at each of the next two meetings. A third meeting will be scheduled in September to discuss an initial draft of the plan. Depending on how the process unfolds, an additional meeting in July or August will be scheduled. Members may be asked to review and comment on materials between meetings. She encouraged Members to attend at least one Public Forum and a Facilitated Discussion Group if relevant to their areas of expertise and interest. The schedules will be posted on the website.

VI. Wrap Up and Adjournment

- Vicedomini thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meetings:

May 19 – 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm – ValueOptions

June 17 – 10:00 am –12:00 pm – ValueOptions