

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting

July 21, 2015
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Carmen Almodover, Deb Bastie, Sarah Becker, Liz Bryden, Tim Carrol, Alice Farrell, Natalie Gaudette, Latosha Johnson (DCF), Wayne Johnson (DCF), Diane Kearney, Beth Landolina, Nick Lebron. Manny Maldonado, Francisca Massa, Tokuji Okamoto, Judi Orlando, Lisa Palazzo, Alana Parkinson, Sandra Rivera, Josie Robles, Malika Robledo (DCF), Regina Roundtree, Kathy Schiessl, Sara Senft, Martha Stone, Doug Taylor (DCF), Chantel Thomas (DCF) Rosita Torres, Ofelia Velazquez, Maritza Velez (DCF), Jeanette White (DCF), Beresford Wilson

Voting Members Absent: Blue, Terrance; Brown, Sophia; Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Carroll, Tim; Farinella, Ivy, Glynn, Hector, Hunter, Colinda; Johnson, Winston; Little, Lorna; Perez, Salina;

The DCF Region 4 RAC meeting was held at the Hartford DCF office from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. This meeting is for the full membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The overview of the meeting transition new chair and co-chair positions and to look at the DCF subsidized, non-subsidized TOG & Adoptions, DCF Re-entry practice and new legislation.

Introductions

- Welcome new chairs, Alice Farrell and Nick Lebron
- Regina thanked the RAC members for all they do
- Alice & Chris thanked Regina for all her work and dedication to the RAC and for making the transition smooth

Minutes review

- Motion to accept the minutes with correction to page 3 "Committee updates to include from May, 2015 by Nick Lebron
- 2nd by Beresford Wilson-all in favor

DCF Update

- Translation boxes are needed- FAVOR can help-Manny Maldonado will check into this for the next meeting
- Maritza Velez will translate for this meeting

- Wayne Johnson will send an email out to members to still vote
- Voting to close by cob on Friday
- Wayne will collect votes by email
- Some folks were nominated, but all know if they are on the ballot
- Voting is for 3 year terms
- Voting ballots were collected at the meeting
- One week for voting results to be tabulated
- Once elected the August meeting will be voting member only

DCF Re-Entry Program-Latosha Johnson & Doug Taylor

- Handout given
- Youth that are 18 years old and non-compliant or don't want to stay with DCF receives a 800 form dismissing them from DCF care
- If a youth is discharged from DCF care and later decides they want to return to care and are still under the age of 21 they can call the Careline
- Careline will send an email to the area office in his/her catchment area
- In Hartford, Doug would then meet with the youth, if eligible then fill out the re-entry packet
- Doug asks youth about their criminal history and has youth sign releases
- Doug then verifies the information and brings the application to the Adolescent Program Manger, Latosha
- If re-entry is denied, a letter is sent explaining why
- Doug also will then try to connect the youth with housing, DSS and services
- Martha suggested that the letter notify the youth that they have the right to appeal if denied
- Connections: case by case basis, using the tier system to prioritize
- DCF has the ability to access how far these youth are educationally
- In 5 days we received requests from Florida and Indiana
- Doug contacted Indiana CPS
- Benefits: Vocation and education-youth has to be able/willing to connect
- If the youth is out of state, we do process the application on the phone
- DCF tries to plan getting them back to CT
- If anyone has suggestions or questions, call Doug 418-8175
- SW are trying to keep youth in care, showing video "No Place to Put My Stuff" before letting them sign out of care
- Video is on the DCF website under policy
- Last year we had 12 re-entries in Hartford, Manchester had none
- Foster parents will now get training in re-entry and how to apply
- Martha Stone-Kidsafe has advocates that can help homeless you to apply

New Legislation-PA 15-199

- Handout given
- This act expands guardianship opportunities and implements provisions of the federal preventing sex trafficking's and strengthens the families act
- Permanency planning for any child under 16 cannot have a goal of APPLA/OPPLA
- Also adds a reasonable prudent parent standard-foster parents can now give permission for field trips and other after school activities
- A letter from the Commissioner speaking about the Adolescent bill of rights-Chris will forward

DCF Subsidized/Non-subsidized TOG & Adoption

- Handout given
- Handout will need to be updated to reflect new act 15-199

Miscellaneous

- Performance expectations-Chris reports to the commissioner quarterly
- RAC would like to look to see what subcommittees can do to help DCF reach these expectations
- Parent discussion at RAC: If parents have concerns the membership & outreach will meet with them 1 hour before the RAC meetings to address their concerns
- In May we gave out gift cards-we have 11 left
- At the June meeting we elected Alana Parkinson to address SAC
- Gift cards went to that person for travel expenses
- Will be asking SAC for more money, \$1500 annual

Motion to adjourn by Beresford Wilson and 2nd by Alana Parkinson

The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall