

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting

September 15, 2015
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Jo Allen, Carmen Almodover, Jeremiah Ames, Leslie Ames, Deb Bastie, Sarah Becker, Tim Carrol, Heather Congdon, Alice Farrell, Bryan Flint, Taylor Ford, Meliza Fuentes, Susan Graham, Giselle Jacobs, Wayne Johnson (DCF), Diane Kearney, Beth Landolina (DCF), Nick Lebron, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF), Manny Maldonado, Sean McHugh, Tokuji Okamoto, Judi Orlando, Alana Parkinson, Paula Plante, Josie Robles, Samuel Saylor, Kathy Schiessl, Sara Senft, Zoe Stout, Linda Trigilio, Ofelia Velazquez,

Voting Members Absent: Carlene Davis, Hector Glynn, Bernetta Henry, Cory Jacobs, Diane Kearney, Lorna Little, Martha Stone, Beresford Wilson,

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 to give a membership, family engagement meeting, Network of Care, sub-committee and the SAC retreat updates.

Minutes review

- Motion to accept the July 2015 minutes made by Alana Parkinson
- 2nd by Manny Maldonado-all in favor

RAC Membership Update

- The goal is to put together profiles
- Start with the executive team
- Wayne, Beth and Terry will reach out to Voting committee to get info and create a book for RAC
- Profiles of Voting members too
- Update the by-laws to handout at the next meeting
- Calendar of the meetings handout given
- List of Voting members handout given
- All voting members have accepted their positions
- Membership team (Wayne & Deb) have asked for new members to join

- RAC membership form was handed out if anyone new would like to join see Wayne Johnson
- We have a place on the membership form where you can check if you would like to become a voting member or have concerns

Family Engagement Meetings

- When family members come to the RAC with DCF issues-we are creating a process for this
- After the RAC meeting if family members have an issue they can stay and meet with the RAC chairs so as not to bring sensitive info to the RAC meeting
- Starting to build a database and create a process to give access to programs
- We need to talk about what the form will look like
- Regardless of whether it is a parent or providers the form should be the same
- If the program is different the form more uniform it would help
- The CST form is new and in English and Spanish
- We can discuss changing the name
- The collaborative could use this form too
- We welcome families at RAC but don't want to discuss their issues in front of 40 people-a smaller group would be good
- We need to have a method were families can get their issues addresses
- How do we gather this information?
- We will try and develop a format for this
- After the meeting to stay back and answer families questions
- Some families come to RAC with more than CPS issues but not just a child's Mental Health but the parents too
- If you are a family member you could go to the collaborative with this form too
- If you have CPS service you can still use the same for
- This is an evolving document

Network of Care/Agents of Transformation

- Family champion-Sue Graham
- FAVOR offering a training Family engagement/partnering
- Family workshop-5 modules to include; Vision, Motivation, Skills, Resources, Actions
- What are the skills and barriers?
- Objective of the training is to help build a family network and help with systemic changes
- Maria Feliciano-AFCAMP has 2 scheduled trainings (Friday in Spanish)
- Next Wednesday the 23rd at AFCAMP
- RAC will make an effort to reach out to families about the training
- If RAC wanted a specific training or providers wanted to attend, they said they will work with us.
- Maybe an overview for providers-they are working on this
- FAVOR managers need to connect family members to the training

- RAC will be bringing the by-laws to the forefront to make sure we are fulfilling our by-laws legislatively
- Networking and putting the pieces together
- Family Champions will be the ones to move this forward
- If you cannot attend the training, reach out to Manny or Nick to arrange another training date

SAC Retreat

- Statewide Advisory Council-6 Regions attended
- Region IV sent Chris, Nick, Alice, and Alana
- It was very organized-the Commissioner and her team gave a presentation
- From the State Providers meeting –presented issues and concerns in their Regions
- Had a number of things that RAC can help with
- They are producing everything in one document to bring to the RAC
- They also had a youth from New Britain speak about what it's like to live in a foster home
- They had a breakout session where each Region could ask questions
- SAC & RAC relationships were more evident after this meeting
- How do we connect our communities and providers
- Many things that RAC want to do can be implemented here in the Region with the RA, OD's and PD's
- Each Region gave a report
- We need to do a better job connection with our youth
- We have a plan to reach out to our YAB board
- Jeremiah is willing to ask a few of his adopted friends to join
- Some of the Regions have a foster parent information packet
- Alana will get it and bring it to the RAC
- CO did a present their action steps
- Looking at the advisory groups to see what actions they are taking and how we can use technology to inform all the RAC's
- How can we support co-chairs and RACs with trainings

Sub Committees

- 2 committees are active, Membership & Outreach group and the Professional Development Group
- Any RAC member can join a COI team
- What should we move forward?
- What should we sunset?
- Healthy Development has been active too
- Could form ADHOC committees around the issues
- What are the Department's needs? What can RAC help with?

- Presentation on performance expectations can help to give the RAC an idea of where we are struggling-Juvenile Justice, Permanency and Congregate Care

Motion to adjourn by Manny Maldonado and 2nd by Alana Parkinson

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

Submitted by,
Terry Hall