

Region 4 Advisory Council Voting Members Meeting

October 20, 2015
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Sarah Becker, Alice Farrell, Hector Glynn, Joseph Guion (DCF), Latosha Johnson (DCF), Diane Kearney, Beth Landolina (DCF), Nick Lebron, Barbara O'Brien (DCF), Alana Parkinson, Malika Robledo (DCF), William Seals (DCF), Kathy Schiessl, Martha Stone, Maritza Velez (DCF), Jeanette White (DCF), Rosemary Wieworka (DCF), Beresford Wilson, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF)

Voting Members Absent: Ames, Jeremiah; Bastie, Deb; Brown, Sophia; Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Carroll, Tim; Davis, Carleen; Bryan Flint, Henry, Bernetta; Jacobs, Corey; Jacobs, Giselle; Little, Lorna; Trigilio, Linda;

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 voting membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The overview of the meeting was to talk about DCF performance expectations, CQI teams, CST form and to get a SAC update.

Minutes review

- Motion to accept the minutes by Alana Parkinson
- 2nd by Beresford Wilson-all in favor

CST Form

- This form was created by DCF, the RAC and community providers
- Hartford/West Hartford Community Collaborative
- RAC will update the form but cannot vote on these changes because there is not a quorum
- We will make the changes and send it to Terry to email.
- We can vote by email
- Send VM minutes for a vote by email

RAC By-Laws

- By-laws need updating
- Discussion of voting by proxy not currently in there
- Membership committee will pull the by-laws and update them
- Updated by-laws on the agenda for the next meeting

Presentation

- 6 items we are working on-1. Case planning/diverting placements 2. Exits to Permanency 3. Achieving racial justice 4. Prepare children & Adolescents for success, 5. Prepare & support workforce to meet the needs of children and families 6. Consistent & effective supervision
- All four CQI teams co-leads are here for updates on what they are working on
- **Case Planning CQI**-Outcome measure 3, clinical appropriate case plans that reflect engagement are some of the areas this team is working on
- Manchester has inconsistently met the measure, Hartford has not met the measure since 2009
- The court monitor pulls 8 cases in Hartford and 4 in Manchester to review
- They review them for needs met –medical, educational, dental and permanency needs
- 80% is the goal-Hartford is just under 70%, Manchester is better but no consistent
- This CQI team meets monthly-4th Wed on each month
- Working on implementing the strategies-working on father engagement and identifying needs when the case is in Intake
- How to improve case planning and make case plans more family friendly and engaging the providers in case planning
- ACR reviews & Link reports also let us know what areas need improvement
- This Link report shows 54 areas for needs met-CQI team choose 16 to work on
- Some of the needs are being met by the caregiver but are not documented
- **Permanency CQI**-areas this team is working on are implementation of permanency teaming, timely reunification and Therapeutic Family Time (TFT) through the Village
- Team is making sure the TFT program is up and running and meeting our expectations
- Transfer of guardianship (TOG), adoption and reunification are goals for this team-permanency teaming is important to all of these goals
- Permanency tools to use with the families and the children are being looked at
- Would like feedback from the RAC as to how to get families to the table
- Permanency teaming to try and help with family supports

- At the considered removal (CR) meeting we start building the permanency team
 - The permanency model is looking at a child's important relationships
 - Looking at the average length of time a child is in care with the goal of reunification
 - Hartford 50% of youth were reunified/Manchester 40% of youth were reunified-more children are reunified but not within the 12 month period
 - Permanency teaming-reaching out to the older youth to see who they want involved
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- **Children Reside Safely at Home CQI**-goal is to serve children in their home and not come into care
 - Keep children out of Congregate care
 - Work needs to be done from Intake to Permanency-consults with RRG staff is very important
 - Staff capacity around the 0-3 population and any barriers
 - Team is looking at CR data-2nd quarter in 2015 looking to see where these children that were diverted are now
 - How to support the family home and relative foster care homes to keep children in placement
 - Caregiver Support Team (CST) are under utilized
 - Trying to hold CR meetings pre-removal
 - Team is looking at the date for April, May and June-149 meetings held in the Region-110 were pre-removal meetings-83 meetings resulted in the child staying at home or to a family arrangement
 - CQI team will look at where these children are today
 - This CQI team would be a good fit for RAC family members
 - Children served in Family Foster Care is 85% in Manchester and 80% in Hartford
 - Decline in children coming into care
 - Each CQI team is not just looking at data they are looking at cases. We have 2 new QI SW, one in each office that are looking deeper into the cases to see if these children are better off being diverted from placement
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- **Racial Justice CQI**- This team developed a study on intake cases to get a baseline to see where are cases coming from
 - How are decisions being made from intake to ongoing services
 - Dr. DeJesus from St. Joseph College will be working with us to have meaningful discussions about how race and ethnicity effect our decisions (staff asked for this)
 - Working on facilitating conversations with Social Worker (SW) and the family
 - Developing a tool that SW can bring to the family to ask questions about race and ethnicity without offending families
 - Sarah Becker has been attending this CQI team meetings since June
 - This CQI team impacts all of the other CQI teams
 - They meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30
 - A survey was sent to social work supervisors (SWS) to see what their comfort level is when having conversations about race and ethnicity

- How can you help the COI teams? Email any co-lead to find out what you can do

SAC update

- No update will be on the agenda for next month

Motion to adjourn by Nick Lebron and 2nd by Beresford Wilson

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

Submitted by,
Terry Hall