

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting

July 19, 2016
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present:: Deb Bastie, Tim Carroll, Alice Farrell, Bryan Flint, Brenetta Henry, Wayne Johnson (DCF), Nick Lebron, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF), Manny Maldonado, Evelyn Melendez Lisa Palazzo, Alana Parkinson, Malika Robledo, Kathy Schiessl, Martha Stone Joanne Tremblay-Jackson, Linda Trigilio, Ofelia Velazquez, Jeanette White (DCF)

Voting Members Absent: Sarah Becker, Hector Glynn, Giselle Jacobs, Diane Kearney, Lorna Little, Judi Orlando, Josie, Milagros Vega, 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 was to get the COI teams update, SAC update, talk about the Education Sub-Committee, DCF YAB and the voting member proposal.

Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

- Hartford and Manchester joined their YAB boards to have one Regional YAB
- YAB was formed to give youth a voice in our practice at DCF
- To bring issues to DCF's attention
- YAB created their own bill of rights
- They have their own agenda, President, VP and executive team
- A representative from the YAB meet with the Commissioner and Regional Administrators every quarter to voice their concerns
- For the September YAB meeting Chris will go to recruit youth to join the RAC
- Maybe the youth can use this for their community hours
- Talk with the adolescent about recruitment of adolescent foster homes
- Maybe the youth can come to foster care events to help in the recruitment
- Use the youth for our recruitment video
- There is the I Can Conference on September 22nd-would like YAB youth to come
- Maybe a YAB member should be part of the Educations Subcommittee

- A Foster care alumni board is being created-maybe a YAB youth can represent there too
- Contact SW Kally Moquete-Gonzalez for info on the Foster care alumni
- Think about the Connect grant- they are offering youth training

CQI Teams Updates

Racial Justice CQI

- Consistently meeting for a year
- Completing baseline reviews coming out of intake-Have race and ethnicity questions been asked?
- Are staff comfortable asking these questions?
- CQI team has held learning forums
- The team created a survey asking supervisors how comfortable they are talking about race and ethnicity
- We are finding that the questions are being asked but not documented
- CQI team held cafes (Everyday Bias), created posters and buttons for staff
- They are working on a video with examples of how to have these conversations
- Having background information on a family helps with the case planning
- Dr. DeJesus from St Francis is working with the department on Racial Justice
- RAC Members, Manny Maldonado, Diane Kearney and Sarah Becker are on the Racial Justice CQI team
- CQI teams are open to the community
- The committee was started because the Commissioner wants Racial Justice across the state
- The team is a very diverse team where everyone has a voice on the team
- The team also reviews policy through a racial justice lens

Children Safely at Home CQI

- This CQI teams main focus is on children remaining with the family or a family setting
- We have Considered Removal (CR)with families to brain storm to mitigate safety factors
- Families will offer up support-family arrangement
- No legal action is taken when a family arrangement is made
- The team is looking at our CR practice
- This team is looking at disruptions from foster care and why?
- They are working on a disruption protocol

Permanency CQI

- This team's goal is to achieve preferred permanency goals
- The preferred permanency goals are reunification, transfer of guardianship or adoption
- Looking at DCF internal process of Multi-Disciplinary Assessment for Permanency Assessment (MAP)
- Help to implement the permanency teaming model

Case Planning CQI

- This team is looking at the development of appropriate case plan in partnership with the family
- Making sure we are meeting the needs of families with services
- Trainings for SWS to coach staff on purposeful visits
- Partnering with Administrative Care Review (ACR) staff to look at the quality of our work
- All of our CQI teams are engaging our staff to improve our work

Professional Development

- Trainings are not well attended because everyone is so busy
- Maybe they should connect with the local providers

Educational Sub-committee

- July 28th at 1:00 will be the first meeting at FAVOR or Beacon

SAC Update

- Alana has been representing us at SAC but can no longer represent the RAC
- Thank you from the RAC for her service
- RAC will need to nominate someone to attend the SAC meeting
- Nominate Brenetta Henry and Evelyn Melendez
- Voting on nomination will take place at the August meeting
- Alana will email the Executive board

Voting Member Proposal

- Email policy handout given
- Brian Flint made a motion to accept, Brenetta Henry 2nd
- All were in favor

Motion to adjourn by Brian Flint and 2nd by Brenetta Henry the Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall