

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting

November 15, 2016

Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Deb Bastie-Hernandez, Sarah Becker, Malik Champlain, Alice Farrell, Bryan Flint, Hector Glynn, Brenetta Henry, Wayne Johnson (DCF), Beth Landolina (DCF), Manny Maldonado, April Mayo, Sabra Mayo, Evelyn Melendez, Judi Orlando, Malika Robledo (DCF), Martha Stone, Linda Trigilio, Maritza Velez (DCF), Kelly Waterhouse

Voting Members Absent: Tim Carroll, Giselle Jacobs, Diane Kearney, Nick Lebron, Lorna Little, Lisa Palazzo, Alana Parkinson, Josie Robles, Kathy Schiessl, Joanne Tremblay-Jackson, 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 a SAC update, Information of the statewide racial justice event, follow-up on the DCF presentation, Education subcommittee update, SOC update and to let RAC know about the December meeting with Josh Howroyd concerning new legislation coming.

Motion by Brenetta Henry to accept the minutes from the September meeting, 2nd by Manny Maldonado
Approved by RAC

SAC update

- Last Tuesday was the SAC retreat, it was full day
- Talked about youth and the youth in transition and their impact on the YAB (Youth Advisory Board)
- The YAB has been able to impact policy-DCF Bill of Rights
- The Region has committed to having youth at the RAC table and also attend SAC
- Each RAC talked about their work over the last year
- We talked about our CQI team
- We talked about our State Advisory Boards: We had CEBAC, CONNECT update, public act 13-178

- A presentation given was by CEBAC representative
- DCF to come up with a Behavioral Health plan for children
- CT Suicide Advisory Board gave a presentation
- DMHAS young adult serviced did a presentation
- How does RAC interplay with these other boards?
- We can invite any of these boards to present at the RAC meetings
- Bill Rosenbeck talked about CJTS and DCF presented on transitions
- Communication between the SAC and RAC is key
- SAC funding, we need to apply-there is a new applications
- Chris will get the new form to Deb and Wayne
- SAC retreat was a good opportunity to hear what other RAC's are doing
- The Commissioner was there to hear what the RAC's are working on
- Some RAC's are more flexible with their meeting times to allow the youth to attend

Statewide Racial Justice Event

- The Statewide Racial Justice event was held in Middletown for a ½ day
- Alice and Sarah said it was well organized and a great event
- Dr. Gilliam presented on suspension and expulsions of our youngest youth
- He presented a study of 3 & 4 year olds-if the child is a male, black and larger in size suspensions and expulsions go way up
- CT is 7th in the country with the highest rate of suspension and expulsions
- What is DCF and the sub committees doing to tackle the racial justice in our work
- Powerful data was presented-3,4, and 5 year olds are being expelled at a higher rate than all other ages
- The education sub-committee is working on this
- Did our sub-committee come away with action steps?
- There were take a ways that will be sent to all Racial Justice leads
- Schools need to contact our SW before any expulsions occur
- How can we change the disparity in expulsions in our schools?
- Dr. Gilliam's study had to do with empathy, how to help someone develop empathy
- We broke out into workgroups and compiled information to be given to our RAC through our RJ CQI team
- Careline also talked about the increase in the number of reports coming in
- With changes coming to FWSN (Family with Service Needs) will the reports be higher?

- Truancy and attendance-YSB in East Hartford is trying to collaborate with schools to try and step in before DCF gets involved
- Martha and Hector are working on a project to see why youth are truant
- RAC could be looking to see how many of our youth are truant-this data will be beneficial to the RAC
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Tabled Items; YAB update, RAC by-laws, Email policy membership & outreach and SAC representative

- RAC by-laws updates-there are state regulations that cannot be changed
- Email policy?: email distribution list for RAC cannot be used for non-RAC information or related items
- All emails should be sent to Terry, Nick or Alice to see if it can be sent to the RAC members
- Motion to accept the email policy made by Nick and 2nd by Martha, all in favor was the vote on this policy
- SAC Representative-Motions made by Nick and 2nd by Bryan to accept Evelyn Mendez as SAC representative and Bryan as an alternative
- SAC will hold 6 meeting a year in Middletown
- YAB update-tomorrow Chris is going to a YAB meeting to recruit youth for the RAC
- Professional Development has 3 openings for Identifying Substance Abuse and Mental Health and Cognitive Limitations and the Impact on Parenting
- The training is tomorrow at HBH in Manchester from 1-4-
- Evelyn and Linda will attend

Presentation feedback-tabled

Education Sub-committee

- Education sub-committee met for the 2nd time a few weeks ago
- 10 people attended the meeting
- We looked the performance expectations that concern education
- Educational plans and student success plans

- How many SW are involved in the student success plans
- The next meeting will be held at Beacon Health
- What number of children and number of SW that are working with these youth and navigating the system
- We talked about why each of us joined the sub-committee and what their agenda is?
- Nick spoke with Chris Leone, USD2 Superintendent-who said he would work with our committee to help hone down specific tasks
- The best thing DCF can do right now is to get their children enrolled in preschool-how many children are enrolled in preschool? What are the logistics of getting children into preschool
- Transportation? Foster Parents working?
- Maybe Chris Leone can get this data to the CRP (Citizen Review Panel)

SOC Updates

- Nick is a tri-chair
- Beacon Health will come and present at the Village North next Monday
- December 19th is a round robin of tall of the providers
- Who, what, where and why of Systems of Care
- Maybe we should have a Region 4 meet and greet with all the collaboratives

Josh Howroyd-December meeting

- Josh Howroyd will attend the December meeting to discuss upcoming legislation and the process
- Food and Celebration will be in December
- Achievement First –open to visitors to see how our children are doing
- Open information sessions and one for the community
- Lottery enrollment period is now open and continues unto 2/28

Motion to adjourn by Brenetta Henry and 2nd by Hector Glynn.
The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall