

Region 4 Advisory Council Meeting

January 9, 2014

Hartford DCF

250 Hamilton Street

Present: Becker, Sarah, Blue, Terrence, Brown, Sophia; Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Carroll, Tim, Farinella, Ivy; Farrell, Alice, Glynn, Hector, Hunter, Colinda; Jefferson, Tina, Johnson, Wayne, Johnson, Winston, Kearney, Diane, Landolina, Beth, Lau, Chris, Lebron, Nick, Little, Lorna, Parkinson, Alana; Robles, Josie; Roundtree, Regina; Schiessl, Kathy, Velez, Maritza, White, Jeanette
Absent: Milly Arciniegas, Beresford Wilson, Salina Perez, Deb Batsie,

The meeting was hosted by Hartford DCF and was held from 12- 2 PM. This was the first meeting for the newly elected voting members, DCF executive management and liaisons only.

Regina Roundtree opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. She asked each person to state the reason they are on the RAC and what they would like to see the RAC accomplish. Some of the themes of what members would like to see are bulleted here:

- Push forward collaborative agendas
- More positive working relationship between DCF and community
- Becoming a strong voice
- Better communication between DCF and foster families
- Better understanding of DCF initiatives
- Interface with faith community-bring community's input into practice
- Understanding what the role is of the RAC in agency's practice
- Ambassadors of what the RAC can do
- Continue to move forward with the work between DCF and community
- Make decisions on what comes out of sub-committees, not just report out. Play an advising role and be able to see changes implemented by the RAC
- Accountability for policy and practice, sharing information between DCF and community and vice versa, youth voice and model for other RACs

RAC Business

It was decided that the January 21st RAC meeting would be cancelled and there would be a meeting on January 28th from 12-2pm in the Manchester DCF to finish the business of the voting members before having the larger group meet in February 2014.

Regina Roundtree led the members in reviewing the RAC By-laws.

She announced that everyone should add 6 months to their term since the terms match the State fiscal year which goes until June 30th.

Roberts Rules of Order was discussed and it was agreed that the RAC would use these for voting purposes. Janier Caban-Hernandez will send out an easy to understand version of the Roberts Rules.

Regina Roundtree announced that every voting member will be on a standing committee and if they are not on a committee that they need to decide which one they will be on.

There was discussion on how often the voting members are going to meet and how often the larger group is going to meet. It was decided that the larger meeting will be quarterly with the voting members meeting the two months in between as follows:

February 2014- large meeting
March and April 2014- voting members
May 2014- large meeting
June and July 2014- voting members
August 2014- large meeting
September and October 2014- voting members
November 2014- large meeting
December and January 2015- voting members

The Standing Committees will continue to meet monthly or as often as needed.

There was some discussion about the month that the Annual meeting will be held and it was decided that it will be in May.

It was discovered that on the list of voting members Hector Glynn should be in the column for over 50% of salary is for the provision of services to children and families. Also Whitney Sanzo has resigned from the RAC as a voting member. Josie Robles is the alternate who will take her place (this will be verified). This brings the number of members who earn less than 50% to 10 and those earn who more than 50% to 11.

Regina Roundtree asked for nominations of officers (2 year term). Kathy Schiessel made a motion to nominate Regina Roundtree and Ivy Farinella and Nick Lebron seconded the motion. The term would be for 2 ½ years with a new election in 2016. Seventeen members voted yes and there was 1 who abstained. The one abstention was due to the fact that the By-Laws have not been voted in by the RAC and in the By-Laws it says that the nominating committee will present a slate of officers to the full Council at least ten working days prior to the Annual Meeting at which elections are held.

There was much discussion about whether there should be interim co-chairs until May 2014 and have an Annual Meeting then with election of officers or wait until May 2015 for the Annual Meeting. Sophia Brown made a motion to have the Annual Meeting in May 2015 and that Regina Roundtree and Ivy Farinella would be the co-chairs until that time. Nick Lebron seconded the motion. Seventeen members voted yes and 1 abstained.

Alice Farrell will write an amendment to the By-Laws to include this change.

Attorney Martha Stone announced that DCF has put forth 9 legislative proposals and stated that the RAC should weigh in on them. She also stated that there are two new pieces of legislation that should be topics for the RAC. The Raise the Grade legislation that went into effect in July 2013 is rolling out now and Public Act 234 is regarding youth exiting out of the system effective October 2013.

The next meeting on January 28th will include agenda items to finish reviewing and voting on the By-Laws, determining location of meetings, voting on a Secretary, Standing Committees and legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Landolina MSW
QI Supervisor
Region 4