

State Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2015

Members in attendance: Elisabeth Cannata, Claudia Carbonari, M.D., Jacquelyn Farrell, Deb Kelleher, Regina Moller,

Also in Attendance: Susan Smith, Patricia Lorenson, Sarah Lockery, David Santis

Members Absent: Donna Grant, Erica Kesselman, M.D., Regina Roundtree, Susan Sherrick

Welcome & Introductions

Regina Moller & Elisabeth Cannata

Meeting was called to order at 9:30a.m.

All in attendance introduced themselves.

RAC & Community Update

A draft form was discussed that outlined the way RAC regions would bring information to SAC. The purpose is to provide a format for the RACs to report and to delineate matters brought before the SAC. The RACs should submit their recommendations to the Regional Administrator and to the SAC. The form was not included in this packet- Regina Moller will submit an electronic copy to the office.

Region 1 RAC- Pat Lorenson did not attend the RAC meeting. Susan Smith attended and presented the 0-3 fatality report at the May 15 RAC meeting.

Region 2 RAC- Jacquelyn Farrell reported that the RAC reviews the Intake/FAR data at each meeting along with the Data Dashboard. The review of the data led to discussions around adolescent services including services post majority. The Adolescent and Juvenile Services department will be invited to do a formal presentation at future a RAC meeting. A Community Services System grid was developed by the DCF Systems Development and Management Director and shared with the RAC. An update of the Foster and Adoption Services was given and included information about Foster Care Appreciation month activities. It includes an outing for foster families at Lake Compounce, trainings for foster families at Boys and Girls Village and an exit program through the Children's Center in Hamden. Jacquelyn Farrell reported on SAC activities. Feedback from families included a request to provide a stipend to cover transportation for interested families to attend the SAC.

Region 3 RAC- no representative to report

Region 4 RAC-no representative to report

Region 5 RAC- Deb Kelleher noted that it was a very small meeting with the absence of the youth group from LISA Inc. (Life in Safe Alternatives) as they attended another program that same day. RAC was notified that this group would not be returning as they are graduating and the next LISA Inc. starts in September 2015.

The co-chair, David Oyola returned from a Foster Youth Shadow Day in Washington D.C. He relayed his concerns about the way the foster care system functions in CT based mostly on his own experience as a foster youth. He met with Elizabeth Esty, CT State Representative from the 5th Congressional District, and spent a part of his day with her. According to other youth that have attended these conferences-they report that the kids eventually feel much empowered and discover they have a much stronger voice together.

Other concerns noted were that the RAC discussions revolve too much around foster care and community members would like it to be a more global discussion about the concerns of all children and youth in Region 5. In addition, concern was voiced that membership had fallen off. A parent noted that attending a meeting from 3-4:30pm to accommodate youth creates difficulty for parents separated from their children during that crucial time of the day.

Region 5 focus was to be based on the outcome of their recommendations, in part, to develop a form geared to youth in out-of-home care to use when they meet with their social workers. It will assure they have a voice in how they are treated, what services they are offered, insure they can account for their important documents and monitor the communication flow within their residence and the social worker. They will now modify the focus to include the concerns voiced by the youth and community.

Region 6 RAC- Elisabeth Cannata reported since SAC did not meet in the beginning of May, RAC took opportunity to review their recommendation plan for a final time which became the focus of half the meeting. (The report was distributed to members at this meeting.) The remainder of the meeting was a DCF presentation of the regional strategic goals identified for region 6. The plan is to use these goals as the RACs launching point for developing their focus for the upcoming year. They now have a new FAVOR liaison to DCF and that person is now attending the meetings.

Region 6 Final Report was distributed to SAC members present. Ms. Cannata will send an electronic copy to the office for distribution to the rest of the SAC members.

Region 1 and Region 4 need to submit their final report no later than the end of June (2015), in order to continue in the next round of disbursements.

Dave Santis from Covenant of Care, volunteered to attend the Region 4 RAC meetings. Elisabeth Cannata will connect Mr. Santis with Wayne Johnson from Region 4 RAC to be included.

Discussions were carried regarding the use of technology to support attendance by RAC members. A test practice run will be arranged for some time in August.

RAC representation

MOTION: SAC voted that in the event of a RAC appointee's planned absence from a SAC meeting that he/she identify a substitute person from their RAC to attend. We can arrange to make a conference line available if that would help to support representation in the absence of a RAC appointee. If a substitute can't be identified, it is asked that the RAC appointee forward a written RAC update to the SAC chairs for presentation at the missed meeting. That written update would need to be received 2 business days before the SAC meeting.

DCF Updates

Susan Smith

DCF submitted a proposal of \$27.2 million of additional services that we needed. At this point, about \$18 million of the requested amount has been added. The difference is the housing that is being funded under housing folks. JJ seems to be status quo and we don't think that there will be any changes. There were no statewide cuts for community support for families. Fernando Muñiz is available to make a DCF budget presentation in August.

The August meeting will need to focus on finalizing receipt of the recommendations from RACs and the upcoming September Retreat.

Susan Smith will check with Josh Howroyd, Legislative Liaison, on the status of the proposed SAC statute modifications.

Minutes

Deb Kelleher moved to accept the December 1, 2014 minutes as presented. It was unanimously accepted. Claudia Carbonari moved to accept the January 5, 2015 minutes as presented, Elisabeth Cannata seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept. Regina Moller moved to accept the April 6, 2015 minutes, Claudia Carbonari seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept. Deb Kelleher moved to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2015 conference call meeting, Regina Moller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept.

New Meeting Schedule

Corrections noted to meeting schedule. Enter in the schedule that "Commissioner's attendance waived" to the August 3, 2015. SAC will use this meeting as a work session for retreat planning. Enter "***Commissioner attend" to Monday, August 1, 2016 meeting and Monday, December 5, 2016 meeting.

Extended discussion followed regarding membership expirations. Dr. Carbonari's re-appointment is due for renewal as of June 30, 2015. (Maria contacted the Governor's office on May 20 requesting the renewal of Dr. Carbonari's appointment to the third term. No response yet.)

Retreat planning moved to August meeting.

Note: Susan Smith recommended that in preparation for the retreat, that SAC identify potential speakers and topics to be the focus by July. Waiting until August will not give us enough time for planning or securing the speakers.

Fiduciary and Retreat Planning not discussed.

Meeting ended at 11:30am.