

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2014 - 9:00am-12:00pm

In Attendance: April Brenker, Dianne Breton, Terri DiPietro, Elizabeth Duryea, Samantha Forbes, Chris Gardner, Ann Grabowski, Donna Grant, Lorna Grivois, Ava Hart, Jon Jacaruso, Myra Jones Taylor, Allon Kalisher, Dina Kelly, Wendy Kwalwasser, Bill Martin, Regina Moller, Jennifer Nadeau, Kyle Parkinson, Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Laureen Sheehan, Liz Shulman, Saray Skinner, Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez, Christine Stebbins, Cara Westcott, Jeanne Wigglesworth and Ronni Zoback

Welcome and Introductions

Donna Grant

Review of Minutes

Alana Jones

11/07/13 Minutes accepted without change.

Chair Report

Co-Chairs

Gas Card Update

Donna will follow up with Alana and report at the next meeting.

RAC Membership

Guests are encouraged to add their names to the sign in sheet. Tent cards for future meetings will be made with their names on them for the next meeting.

Donna asked for recommendations from the group to fill the vacant voting member spots. Further discussion will be held at the March meeting on who should be included in the group.

Laureen suggested inviting domestic violence programs. Jon suggested including more consumers. It was suggested that the parents that are on the family advisory board receive RAC minutes via e-mail. Alana will get email addresses to Robin to add to RAC distribution list.

Allon passed around a list asking everyone to add any collaboratives that are not on there. Robin will also send it to the group electronically asking for additions.

Potential State and Federal Funding Opportunities (Elizabeth Duryea)

The Commissioner has asked for strategic development for the agency, funding opportunities and technical assistance. Elizabeth is looking at how to maximize federal reimbursements, what are we doing to engage philanthropic organizations and what opportunities are there for private partnerships with corporations. The Commissioner has a goal of 90% of children will be served in the community and only 10% in congregate care. They are working to create a financing model to support expansion of preventative programs. The Department is interested in scaling up services for substance abuse and looking for interventions. There is a link on the DCF homepage to the RFI and responses. They are currently speaking with legislators to engage interest and support. The Commissioner is open to innovative ideas. Currently the RFI does not list specific interventions to allow for flexibility and identify interventions that have not previously been used. Donna asked if DCF could provide a resource to community agencies to assist with evaluation. It is difficult for community agencies to effectively analyze

the data they have on DCF youth involved in community programs. Could this be a resource offered through the Department? Donna also suggested looking at a two-generational model of service delivery to more effectively deliver community (family) based care. Another priority is looking at service gaps for kids transitioning from juvenile justice and expanding partnerships with DDS and DMHAS.

DCF Presentations and Update

Network of Care - Day Kimball's collaborative, NEST

Donna explained that she is working with Day Kimball Hospital's Office of Child Advocacy to create a community collaborative. She is working with this group on collaborative grant writing among all child-serving agencies in the Northeast, instead of it being a competitive process. There is a focus on collective identification of the "right" agency to deliver a specific service, with support from all collaborators for each RFP - having people come together to support each other. Day Kimball has made a commitment to train their entire staff in the Darkness to Light curriculum. TEEG is responsible for rolling out Triple P (Level 1-3) in the northeast. They are looking for a provider that can bill for this service to create sustainability for the initiative. Day Kimball has agreed to recruit 20 of their staff to become Triple P certified and explore the potential to bill for "brief visits" as a nursing consult. They are working on developing a collaboration with hospital leadership, family medicine, pediatrics, emergency adolescent psych, maternal-child health and the programs run through the child advocacy center. A total of 20 staff from these departments will be trained through level 3 in Triple P. Once trained they can give patient referrals. NEST is a collaborative that will be similar to the SOC with community providers. The three constant items on their agenda is: 1. Networking, 2. Discussion of resource acquisition, 3. Case specific work. They are having conversations about the most efficient way to look at how the NEST can coordinate with the other collaboratives.

Early Childhood - Myra Jones Taylor

Myra is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. They have a 168 million dollar budget. On July 1, 2014 they will oversee childcare licensing, care for kids, the Children's Trust Fund. Birth to Three may come over pending a feasibility study, the appropriations committee will ultimately decide. They have four divisions: 1. Early education and early intervention, 2. Pre-k and special education, 3. Family support services (home visitation) and 4. Childhood licensing. They are currently working on direct partnerships with DCF and one charge is a coordinated home visiting program with a continuum of care model. Another is to create mental health training for pediatricians and providers.

Twenty-five thousand children in Connecticut are in high quality care due to investments made in head start. Twenty-two thousand children are in care of unknown quality as there is no current system for identification. They will focus on those 22,000 children, to identify where they are and what kind of care they are receiving.

Information on services should be readily available to all CT residents. They are working on systems to improve access to the information for all parents who need it.

Myra offered to have someone from her office attend RAC or collaborative meetings.

Parents with Cognitive Limitations - Wendy Kwalwasser

The *Parents with Cognitive Limitations* workgroup set goal to create a training to give people a better understanding of executive functioning and what concrete things that workers and providers could do to help support families with parents with cognitive limitations.

The training has 5 CEU's for social workers and is free. It is a one day 6 hour training from 9:00-4:00.

They have created a sub-committee to conduct a training for providers who develop communications for families to help them better understand the language necessary in these communications to effectively reach parents with cognitive limitations.

Laureen asked if she could send ten of her staff and she will send the names to Wendy. People should contact Wendy directly with the names of those that would like to attend. Robin will send Wendy's e-mail address to the group.

Intensive Supportive Housing for - Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez

Kim passed out the information that workers will receive and the paperwork that must be completed for referrals. This program is for families that are new to the system and have a substantiation of abuse or neglect. This new program is funded through a federal grant, as a research project and due to this; it will utilize an extremely unbiased randomized selection process to admit families into the program. This program offers a higher degree of case management in addition to housing support. Families who do not qualify are still eligible for housing support through existing programs. The liaisons are Ron Miller in Norwich, Cassandra Bunkley in Willimantic and Jon Leuba in Middletown.

Area Advisory Councils

NEAC is working on finalizing their strategic plan, they are focusing on how to obtain consumer feedback and looking at developing surveys around the ACR process.

The Family Advisory Board decided they wanted a presentation on early childhood and trauma and are having a presentation this Saturday.

The SEMHSOC is working on a regional list similar to Allon's which lists all of the collaboratives.

Donna asked if folks would be interested in having a dedicated meeting in February to discuss how the region wants to be a part of the CONNECT grant. Donna will send out an e-mail to see who is interested.