

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2018

In Attendance:

Banton, Kym	Halpin, Myke	Russo, Robin
Brenker, April	Jacaruso, Jon	Seagraves, Kelly
Calvert, Rick	Kalisher, Allon	Silva, Dave
DiMauro, Nancy	Kyle, Lindsay	Stebbins, Christine
DiPietro, Terri	Lacey, Chris	Stevens, Kristina
Gardner, Chris	Parkinson, Kyle	Taylor, Jill
Garofalo, Skye	Rein, Wendy	
Grivois, Lorna	Rose, Sean	

Welcome and Introductions

Review of November 2, 2017 Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept the November 2, 2017 minutes.

SAC Update

Regina provided an update on the Bill that would change the SAC to an oversight council. The process is that they accept, review and decide whether or not to approve the bill. If approved the family voice will be lost.

Regina participated in a committee that met to work on the idea of bringing client family testimony to social workers to educate about what works well when working with providers. They want to discuss services that they received and how to improve them and provide recommendations. They are still working on logistics for this meeting.

FAB Update

FAB met in February. They are having a foster care presentation in March and in April on mental health and substance abuse. In May and June they are having youth mental health presentations to kick-off mental health awareness month which is May. They will be held at Abundant Life Church in Colchester, the second Saturday of May and June. All families are welcome to attend.

CRP Funds Update

The application will be in shortly and is approximately in the amount of \$ 4,600.00. Allon questioned the amount as last year it was about \$4,000.00 as some of those dollars are used for the SAC retreat.

YAB Update

As there is no youth represented at this table, how do we get them to participate? Kym remembered that it was decided to combine youth participation with the RAC FAB meeting on Saturdays. Allon suggested doing an annual meeting hoping people will commit to attend.

Christine discussed some of the activities the Willimantic YAB has coming up. The youth choose the speaker's based on what they are interested in. They have had foster care, True Colors, The Wilderness School, adolescent substance abuse programs, colleges etc. in the past. Willimantic has about 15 youth that attend every month in the Willimantic DCF office.

Participation at the RAC meeting is almost impossible due to school, work to learn etc.

Legislative Update

Elizabeth Duryea discussed a bill that came out of the Children's Committee. The Department is opposed to this bill due to what it would do to the SAC's and RAC's. It proposes that these groups would become oversight councils as opposed to advisory councils. The DCF Commissioner is adamant that she doesn't want to see anything happen to the SACs and RACs and she testified in opposition to this bill.

This bill is the first pass, it may look different by the end of the session. The Department is looking to kill this bill, the language is problematic and this would dismantle the good work the SAC's and RAC's have done.

It was suggested making legislators members of both the RAC and the SAC.

Christina suggested the legislative breakfast as a great tool, legislators would be interested in families and providers attending.

Elizabeth discussed a proposed bill that would increase penalties to threats that focuses on DCF staff.

Chris asked if the bill passes would there be a way to continue with this group and the work. Christine indicated that although she does not have any detail but the idea would be to continue with RAC work and it would be highly supported.

Elizabeth offered to assist with getting legislators to any upcoming events that people would want them at.

Christine Stebbins suggested that members at this table ask some legislators to meet quarterly to update them on the work that this group is doing

Allon this group could dismantle this table and restructure. Perhaps have liaisons at this table to report back on other meetings they are attending and update this group of what they are working on.

Everyone has been assigned to find out how even using technology may get more people to the table.

Regina asked that the next meeting be about planning the RAC future.

Teen Suicide

Tim Marshall is the Connecticut Statewide Suicide Advisory Board co-chair, there are over 400 members across the state who participate in the network. There are multiple state departments that send representatives and it is co-facilitated by a number of Connecticut foundations. This group receives federal funding from the Federal Block Grant of approximately \$20,000.00-\$30,000.00 annually. Blended with EMPS funds to boost dollars.

Connecticut has the 4th fewest suicide rate in the country. Tylenol is the number one thing used to commit suicide.

Tim indicated that anyone can order the marketing materials he provided to the group today.

EMPS is the lead assessor in suicide prevention. Trying to get more members in communities to become professionals at suicide assessment.

A primary goal is how to support adults when a suicide occurs as in a suicide death of a student, how to support the teachers and staff. When the Department is notified they immediately notify EMPS.

Suicide is underreported, the Department is notified by the chief medical examiner of determined suicides. 95% of the time after a suicide attempt EMPS is already aware.

Enhanced Service Coordination Initiative

Elizabeth discussed the effort to enhance coordination of services, identify service needs and modify services where needed.

The benefit of region three having an Enhanced Service Coordinator which is a gatekeeper of services to work with Social Workers to think about what is the right services to match to.