

# REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL/NETWORK OF CARE MEETING PROPOSAL FOR COLLABORATION

## For Eastern Region Systems of Care

To create a better system for families by joining the Regional Advisory Council By-Laws to advise in the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive system of services for children, youth and families within the Region and the Children's Behavioral Health Plan (PA 13-178).

A system of care incorporates a broad array of services and supports that is organized into a coordinated network, integrates care planning and management across multiple levels, is culturally and linguistically competent, and builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth at service delivery and policy levels.

## OVERVIEW

Creating one mission and vision for the Eastern Region to better support families and children in our Region.

The History of the Regional Advisory Councils of the Department of Children and Families in Connecticut has paralleled the evolution of the administrative structure of the Department itself since 1958, including re-organizational changes in 1975, 1986 and 2001, as ordered by the state legislature. (Ref. CGS4-60n; 17-434; 17a-30) By design, the Councils serve to inform and involve concerned citizens and private providers of human services within the Regions, in order to complement the Department's mandates to promote and protect the well-being of children and families in their own communities.

The Purpose of the Regional Advisory Council is to advise in the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive system of services for children, youth and families within the Region. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 17a-30 (formerly 17-434) the mission of the council shall be:

- A. To advise the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families on the development and delivery of services in the Region; and
- B. To facilitate the coordination of services for children, youth and their families in the Region.

The Function of the Regional Advisory Council, as required by law and established by precedent, in conjunction with the Department, shall be to:

- A. Advocate for the design, development and coordination of quality services to improve the outcomes for children in the areas of safety, permanency and well-being.
- B. Promote accessibility and delivery of services through systems of care and other community collaboratives, in order to fully utilize available resources;
- C. Assist and review data analysis for the purposes of developing a Regional profile to inform the Council's recommendations on programs and services;
- D. Strengthen ties between children and families, community institutions and public agencies, through application of cultural diversity and inclusion of underrepresented constituencies;
- E. Provide assistance and information to the Commissioner, Regional Administrator and/or their designees, as appropriate.
- F. Review and comment annually on:
  - a. DCF planning and policy matters relating to services and needs including levels of availability, integration, effectiveness, gaps in service, and alternate funding resources;

- b. The DCF budget: priorities, levels of funding and allocations;
- c. Legislative proposals

## PRIORITY AREAS

- Network Analysis
- Family and Youth Engagement/ Workforce Development
- Data Integration
- Cultural Responsiveness
- Social Marketing and Communications

### The Opportunity

Combining efforts to prepare children, adolescents and families for success.

#### 1. Network Analysis

The Eastern Region will have an adequately resourced array of behavioral health care services with the capacity to meet child and family needs and which is accessible across the area. Supporting the goal of integrating all child serving systems into a Network of Care to equally and effectively serve children and families.

In addition, there will be enhanced availability, access, and delivery of services and supports that are culturally and linguistically responsive to the unique needs of diverse populations.

- a. Identify current array of services and service gaps within the Eastern Region
- b. Identify strategies to disseminate information about current resources to families and providers
- c. Concerted effort to include child/family serving systems that are missing from the current array of known services

#### 2. Family and Youth Engagement

Include family members of children with behavioral health needs, youth, and family advocates in the governance and oversight of the behavioral health system.

- a. Increase family and youth involvement to 51% representation over 3 years
- b. Develop strategies that welcome and engage family and youth leaders
- c. Develop methods of sharing and promoting family involvement at local, regional and state levels

#### 3. Workforce Development

Supporting and mentoring youth and family champions. Expanding opportunities to share knowledge and expertise in the development of family driven and youth-guided care.

- a. Ensure that families/caregivers, and youth are full partners in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care/services and in the policies and procedures that govern care for all children and youth in their community.
- b. Support parent and youth capacity to be full partners through participation in leadership development
- c. Identify local youth and family leaders/champions
- d. Support the continued family/youth active involvement and decision making process of the network of care

**4. Data Integration**

Improve Regional data sharing through a user-driven process across child serving sectors to drive planning, policy, budgeting and decision making to transform local, regional and statewide networks of care.

**5. Cultural and Linguistic Regional Responsiveness**

To partner with families and network of care leaders in order to promote health equity, racial justice and cultural and linguistic competence across all behavioral health services at the local and regional levels.

- a. Regular updates from Regional Racial Justice Workgroups
- b. What themes are in our Region and communities on local and regional level

**6. Social Marketing and Communications**

Implement social marketing strategies to create awareness of a statewide Network of Care’s ability to increase service access, reduce gaps in the service array and improve quality of service.

- a. Increase awareness of available child serving systems to families
- b. Encourage program and agency collaboration
- c. Resource sharing and creative marketing

**Action Plan**

<i>Area of Development Needed</i>	<i>What will be done</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Cost of this development (Both in terms of time and money)</i>