

## Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2016

### **In Attendance:**

Banton, Kym	Kalisher, Allon	Rose, Sean
Dewitt, Lisa	Kellert, Libby	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Forbes, Samantha	Martin, Bill	Smith, Steven
Garofalo, Skye	Moller, Regina	Stebbins, Christine
Gaudet, Melissa	Parkinson, Kyle	Taylor, Jillian
Grivois, Lorna	Rein, Wendy	Verano, Katherine
Jacarusso, Jon	Reyes, Loida	Westcott, Cara

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Review of September 24, 2015 minutes**

Motion made and seconded to accept the September minutes.

### **Chair Report**

#### **RAC FAB Update**

Sam spoke about the December FAB meeting, youth advocates discussed the Foster Care Bill of Rights in a powerful and impactful way. Allon added that 3 YAB youth were the presenters. There was also a discussion regarding the roles of the YAB, RAC and SAC. It was suggested that the Foster Care Bill of Rights be part of foster parent training, should be part of placement packets and used as a means of evaluating foster parents. All who attended indicated that it was a positive experience.

Lorna announced that they are going to make an effort to have the joint RAC/FAB meeting every six months. Regina recommended keeping it to Saturdays, she felt it made it more comfortable. The group decided that the next joint meeting would be April 9, 2016 11:30-1:30 85 Abundant Life Church, Skinner Rd., Colchester.

Jon discussed a new training for foster parents that infuses the Foster Care Bill of Rights. They are working on youth being part of foster parent recruitment.

#### **SAC Update**

Regina spoke about a presentation from Susan Smith about a report that came out on foster care families, a review of a federal process that is coming about funding that goes to the state and they discussed concerns around EMPS issues. The Commissioner was there, still working on by-laws so they are consistent. Reviewed CRP applications for funding. System review panel to encourage family participation, Regina also discussed lack of participation at the SAC from Region 3.

#### **Update on communication process for connection Collaboratives (e.g. RAC/SAC/SOC's/LIST's) and other relevant stakeholder groups**

Jon provided a handout "Connecticut DCF Region 3 Communication Plan" which describes the plan they created. It was decided that the RAC would be responsible for tracking these requests. The group was asked to vote to approve this process and then bring this process back to other groups to explain that the

SAC gets feedback the week before their meetings to form the agenda. Regina indicated that the SAC meets in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Cara suggested adding an action section to the form to indicate action taken and Allon supported. Allon discussed roles in this process.

Regina said that hearing from RAC's in regions on what is working and what is not is valuable. Libby will send out the form electronically to the RAC for suggestions to go to the chairs. It was suggested to include a timeline, talk about how actions are identified and how to provide feedback to those requesting suggestions for this group. This form is to be used by other groups to provide suggestions to the RAC. Allon indicated that the form be submitted to Robin and she will get to Allon, Lorna and Sam, outcomes need to be filtered back out to the other groups to complete the circle.

Regina indicated that two slots at the SAC for Region 3 are vacant and need to be filled. Regina nominated Myke Halpin from the fatherhood group, vote seconded and approved as was the second slot for Sam Forbes to fill.

Tables to include on the communication plan would be systems of care, list groups, local advisory boards and youth advisory board.

### **Voting membership discussion – how to handle the RAC requirement of 51% family voice vote? Solicit ideas from the providers. Proxy?**

Sam said that the RAC currently does not have 51% family voice which is required in the by-laws and asked for discussion. Kim suggested getting family votes through the FAB.

Allon suggested adding to the sign in sheet who each person at the RAC is representing. Kyle brought up it being disingenuous to be able to say at any given time that you are a consumer. It was suggested that RAC meetings be held at night to ensure parent participation. Kyle suggested keeping discussions very ground level for families. Loida discussed taking accountability for getting families to the table. Kyle suggested the Department and providers bring family members with them to the table and provide transportation. Allon suggested getting YAB youth to the meeting from each office. A motion was made to have the RAC meeting 4 times a year to 4-6, on Thursday's. Lorna will look into Abundant Church as the location. This new format might begin with the 3/3/16 meeting.

Allon asked what dollars could be used for food and childcare. Lorna will pose the question to the FAB about using some of the gift cards for this purpose.

### **Crossover Youth (COY) Practice Model Update**

Steve Smith from the DCF Central Office presented the COY Practice Model. Since 2007, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy has worked with jurisdictions across the country on the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems

CJJR's Crossover Youth Practice Model infuses values and standards, evidence-based practices, policies and procedures and quality assurance processes into each phase of its implementation. The CYPM helps participating jurisdictions create a nexus between research and front-line practice and offers a mechanism whereby agencies strengthen their organizational structure and implement or improve practices that directly affect outcomes for crossover youth.

DCF, CSSD, prosecutors, JRB's and Judges are all involved. To read more about the Practice Model's approach, phases, goals, outcomes or research base, you can also visit our website at:

<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/our-work/crossover-youth-practicemodel/>.

### **Submitted Topics & Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion**

Kim announced that the Community Network Program is now fully staffed.

There will be a Network of Care meeting next Thursday at Abundant Life Church from 4:00-6:00. Their focus is on bringing educators to a forum at the end of March to help the community know their resources.

### **DCF Update**

Allon asked that the DCF Office Directors provide updates for their offices at RAC meetings.

The region is currently working on formalizing the 2015 Strategic Plan into a 2016 plan and invited all to provide input.