

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting

March 17, 2015
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Deb Batsie, Sarah Becker, Sophia Brown, Tim Carroll, Liz Bryden, Alice Farrell, Bryan Flint, Hector Glynn, Shawna Goodwin, Wayne Johnson (DCF), Winston Johnson, Diane Kearney, Nick Lebron. Lorna Little, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF), Lisa Palazzo, Beth Landolina, Malika Robledo (DCF), Regina Roundtree, Kathy Schiessl, Martha Stone, Chantel Thomas (DCF), Amanda Toni, Maritza Velez (DCF), Jeanette White (DCF), Tammy Harris-Wilson (DCF), Judi Orlando, Beresford Wilson, Lisette Rodriguez (DCF), Manuel Maldonado, Sean McHugh, Oretha Harris, Giselle Jacobs

Voting Members Absent: Blue, Terrance; Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Farinella, Ivy; Hunter, Colinda; Parkinson, Alana; Perez, Salina; Robles, Josie;

The DCF Region 4 RAC meeting was held at the Hartford DCF office from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. This meeting is for the full membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to move subcommittees forward, moving juvenile justice to DCF, annual meeting and voting in of members, permanency at DCF, legislative proposal ideas and the Connect grant.

Introductions

Minutes review

- The January minutes were approved

Annual Meeting & Voting

- Ivy Farinella stepped down as co-chair but will stay on as a voting member
- Looking at the next 2 months
- April is voting member meeting-will discuss replacing the co-chair
- May is the annual meeting
- Slots will open for voting members (21 voting members)
- 50% of the voting members must to be made up of agency/people that do not receive 50% of their funding from DCF
- 7 members are up for renewal
- An email will be sent with the voting members and their terms

- Also emailed will be a list of responsibilities
- Of the 21 members 7 came up for renewal in 1year (May), 7 came ups for renewal in 2 years and 7 came ups for renewal in 3 years
- If you are not a voting member but would like to be contact Regina or Terry
- If you are interested we do need a resume or bio to bring to the voting members
- The next renewal will be 3years
- May will be a planning meeting

Permanency Presentation- DCF

- Fatherhood practice
- Considered Removal (CR)Teamings-3 staff that facilitate the CR meetings
- When a child/children are in danger of being removed from their home, DCF facilitates a meeting
- Family members are brought to the table to discuss alternatives to removal
- CR meetings were designed to avert placements
- CR meetings are always held before a removal unless there is imminent danger, but even then a CR meeting must be held within 48 hours
- Permanency teaming-adolescent workers have all been trained in the Life Long Connections.
- Lifelong connections are very important as well as the family connections
- Permanency trainings are being held at the training academy
- Providers are also invited to the trainings
- PIC call are back as part of the training
- Permanency work is now starting at Intake
- Requiring all of DCF staff to go to Placement Resource (PRS) training
- Permanency Round Tables is a team that meets weekly to look at APPLA children (in long term foster care)
- Meet and try to connect these children to family or Life Long connections
- MY People and Y-US come to the meeting to partner with DCF
- Has this training been offered to parents??
- FASU division-48% of children have been placed in relative care
- Our Region is the highest in the state with children placed with relatives
- What happens to children when they age out?
- Part of the reason for these round Table meetings is for that reason-to make connections for these children, especially the adolescents
- We are doing this work to make sure our children are better off
- Reunification with the Village is moving toward identifying family strengths and needs toward reunifications
- Administration is really holding workers accountable for digging deep into a case to find relatives

Subcommittees

- What is the work we are doing in our subcommittees?
- What have we accomplished?
- The committees have fizzled and this concerns Chris
- Committees are ; Prevention, Permanency, Community Partnership, Professional Development, Healthy Development, Membership and Communication
- Handout given with committee information-overview of chair contact info, date and time of meetings, goals
- Healthy Development and Professional Development are the only committees that had recommendation going forward at DCF
- Updates needed from each committee
- Look at merging some committees
- If your subcommittee needs direction from DCF-Chris has offered to meet with any team, she has met with one already
- Come to the table with the goals your committee has in mind
- Committees to meet, we will get DCF's Strategic plan and each committee can chose 2 goals to work on
- Strategic plan to be emailed to members
- Maybe consider choosing 3 goals and then build 3 new subcommittees to work on this
- CQI teams may need to merge with our committees
- What happens with SAC decisions made by the Region
- If we join with the CQI teams we don't meet statue
- RAC to look at strategic plan to see what is relevant to long term work-follow through
- Options: a. Take strategic plan and find the goals you want to work on
b. Take DCFs 3 or 4 pressing issues and ask standing committees what aligns with their work
- Regina will email the Strategic plan, committee members names, statue requirements and voting information

Legislative Proposal Ideas

- Court Support Services Division (CC SD) closing and moving Juvenile Justice to DCF- What are your thoughts on this?
- Martha Stone does not think this is going to happen
- There has been a lot of testimony from advocates against this transfer
- Asking RAC members for any thoughts that Regina can bring to SAC
- Judiciary committee-public hearing took a second look at Sentencing bill #796
- Shackling bill and Jane Doe repeal bill have not had a hearing yet
- Bill for education surrogate-had hearing

- Education committee-Alternative schools-had a hearing
- Appropriation committee on #5679-Raise the Grade to continue
- Safe sleep #258 bill passed to have providers give safe sleep info to clients
- Transfer of homeless youth (18-21) to the Department of Public Housing
- Martha will email the link to legislative bills to Regina and she will forward to the RAC members
- The next few weeks it is important that you weigh in on these bills
- Regina fill do a better job of bringing the SAC information to the RAC members
- Regina will send out new legislation coming up for any committee to work on

Connect Grant Update

- Tim Marshal to update voting members on meeting concerning Connect

Misc.

- Beth or Wayne to email committee information and voting member info and terms

The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall