

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Membership Meeting

November 18, 2014 2014

Hartford DCF Office

250 Hamilton Street

Hartford, CT

Members Present: Deb Batsie, Sarah Becker, Ann Denué(DCF), Alice Farrell, Bryan Flint, Hector Glynn, Shauna Goodwin, Tina Jefferson (DCF), Wayne Johnson (DCF), Nick Lebron, Beth Landolina (DCF), Chris Lau (DCF) Lisa Lumbruno (DCF), Lisa Palazzo, Alna Parkinson, Kathy Schiessl, Martha Stone, Greg Lawrence (DCF), Maritza Velez (DCF), Judi Orlando, Oretha Harris, Iris Gomero (DCF) Jeanette White (DCF), Giselle Jacobs

Voting Members Absent: Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Bryden, Liz; Carroll, Tim; Kearney, Diane; Dufresne, Alexandra; Farinella, Ivy; Hunter, Colinda; Blue, Terrence; Wilson, Beresford; Johnson; Winston; Little, Lorna; Perez, Salina; Roundtree, Regina; Brown, Sophia; Robles, Josie; Schiessl, Kathy.

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 2015 Performance Expectations, Legislative Proposal Ideas, the Connect Grant and the RAC recommendations protocol.

Raise the Grade

- Handouts were given-DCF letter that is sent to schools to request records and legislative bills concerning Raise the Grade
- 1500 children are affected by this mandate in our Region
- Many of our children are in danger academically
- DCF Ed consultants have to request the child's record and then code the level of need: Grave danger academically=1, needs help =2 and doing good=3
- Number 1 would take priority and be addressed first then number 2 and then 3
- Children that are just coming into care, their records are requested right away
- Children ready for an ACR, their records are also being requested right away so it can be a part of the case plan
- In October James had 92 cases and Ann had 72 cases

- December 23rd-ACR's coming up, the education consultants send the worker an email to get together and do an education review.
- The education consultants requested 60 records in October
- The Education consultant, the SW sit down to discuss the plan for each child.
- The SWS gets an email and a narrative is put in Link by the consultant
- Children 3-5 years old, we are starting to look at their education plans too
- Statue 14-99-put the burden on the superintendents to make sure a plan is in place
- Any child in DCF facility has to be assessed to see if special education is needed
- Education recommendations go into the case plan
- Our region has 1000+ ACR's and only 3 educational consultants, so not everyone has a consult
- Martha asked how DCF is involving children in the Magnet schools-Ann spoke about DCF efforts being made to get children in Magnet schools-SW can see the education consultants to get a child into a magnet school, a fair is held for school options and flyers have been sent telling when the fairs are being held and Information about the choices are sent out in each district

2015 Performance Expectations

- RAC and COI are to connect this information to the RAC
- The region is developing a plan for the performance expectation
- Using the RBA work to guide our strategies
- Incorporating the COI team co leads to help develop the strategies
- 5 expectations: handout given
 1. Exit from Juan F. Consent Decree
 2. Ensure that children reside safely with families whenever possible and appropriate
 3. Achieve Racial Justice across the DCF system
 4. Prepare children and adolescents in care for success
 5. Prepare and support the workforce to meet the needs of children and families
- Under each expectation are the more detailed expectations
- We are working to meet the measures
 1. 3 things we struggle with are under b. OM3, OM10, OM15, our region has struggled with meeting 1-8 all at one time
 2. Increase serving the children in their homes, increase the permanency goals, increase children in Kinship or Family Foster Care settings
 3. Reduce disparity across the FAR, Investigations, Children entering care. Reduce disparity in the JJ system, including children in secure TX facilities, committed delinquent, delinquent in secure TX facilities, committed delinquent in Congregate care and those on Parole, Reduce disparities for children served by education services, reduce disparity for children served by Prevention Services: what measures will be used
 4. Ensure children are safe and stable, provide quality education, provide life skills, and ensure physical, behavioral and dental needs are met

5. Preparing our workforce to meet the needs of our children by working on training PM and SWS on management skills and engaging Fiscal, CO and OFAS to help the CPS staff ensure that needs are being met

- We are implementing a new Link/SACWA system
- Length of time to finalize policy
- Disparity information come from ORE
- Looking at substantiated children, Children Entering Care and Length that they remain in care-the index is white children
- Broken down by office by population and race in that population
- How can we utilize the RAC for feedback on our strategies in this short timeframe
- Do any strategies jump out at you that you may think we can use, please email us
- We are using the COI teams and will submit our plan in December but would like RAC feedback on our strategies
- Martha: number 2 , B (increase the use of preferred permanency goal- as for APPLA- differentiate by age and not push adolescents out of homes they are connected to
- E. and F.-maybe some kind of family survey could gauge these
- The format which DCF is developing their plan is very structured
- It is so much that some of our strategies are so broad they cross all 5 expectations
- Like quality supervision-we are all developing action steps to get us where we need to go
- We will send it out to you for feedback
- This plan is not federal related-the court monitor is measuring us
- As far as Juan F. the feds are monitoring us through our reporting
- We have been charged with coming up with strategies and action steps on all 5 expectations
- Careline has their own expectations to complete
- Children served through EMS, court and other preventive means are not reflected
- We would like to know the results from the money being spent on this
- COI team handout given-Terry will find out when meeting occurs
- Martha would like the Magnet schools for DCF children on the agenda next month

Legislative Proposal Ideas

- Our office had 5 legislative proposals that went through
- Agenda for this year: Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice
- Child Welfare: 1. child fatality review-report on deaths from last year, pieces related to safe sleep, high risk newborns and annual reporting to the legislature. 2. Adolescents that are aging out a proposal to give these children access to an attorney to tell their side of the story
- Juvenile Justice: 1. Shackles being used on every child coming into court 2. Pre-trial credit should be given for time while in detention 3. Expansion of Raise the Grade to other areas 4. Re-entry from out of home care based on education needs 5. Getting educational surrogates for JJ population
- Can some legislation be done for children in ED waiting for inpatient for days?

- Martha, can you send a summary on these proposals?-they are all on the website
- We will make this an ongoing agenda item

Connect Grant

- Alana attends the meetings from RAC
- All regions submitted their proposals(see handout)-total of 4
- Waiting to see if ours is approved
- Broad theme is health and wellness
- Events coming up are all within three days of each other

SAC Grant

- We received \$1200-deposited in a Wheeler Clinic account to hold
- Will go and purchase the gift cards
- Can someone follow up with Janice Anderson to see why the cut us from \$1500 to \$1200?-Deb Baste will follow up
- Nick would like to see us recruit new families-25-30 families have attended our RAC meetings
- Nick submitted names when he was at FAVOR so the new consultant will have them
- Submitted request for funds (\$300) for food for one annual meeting-this could be what was cut from the amount received

Committee Recommendation Protocol-voting

- No quorum available to vote today
- Terry Hall will email information to voting members and they will vote by email

CQI Team & Sub Committee Discussion-moved to next agenda

Process for Submission of Agenda Items for RAC

- Bring any agenda items to RAC meeting
- Email Terry Hall with any agenda items

The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall