

Statewide Advisory Council Minutes

5/6/19

Attendees: Myke Halpin, Lorna Grivois, Sarah Lockery, Dr. Regina Moeller, Dr. Elisabeth Cannata, Marie Mormile-Mehler, Deb Kelleher, Jennifer Nadeau, Dr. Damion Grasso, Suprena Shuler, Rose (?) Lisa Grandjean-Carlson, Ken Mysogland

Guest: Ken Cabral

Department of Children and Families Overview

- An overview of the new DCF structure was discussed.
- Michael Williams is now the new Deputy Commissioner of Operations
- Legislation:
 - o Interim budget numbers are positive at this point but the session is still far from being over.
 - o Funding proposal has been made for mental health service coordination and case management for families to be provided by Beacon Health instead of DCF and having to call the DCF Careline to initiate support.
 - o Proposal remains to provide college assistance for youth adopted after 12/31/2002 as currently tuition will be paid for those youth adopted after 12/31/2004.
 - o SAC members discussed proposed legislation to train students on how to report child abuse and neglect and overall how to educate young people to understand child maltreatment and who to tell.
- Handouts of the DCF Emerging Strategy, Staff Memorandum regarding Organizational Assessment and proposed budget were reviewed.

Child and Family Services Plan Update

- Ken Cabral provided an overview of the plan and intent.
- This is a 5 year strategic plan
- Plan is designed to shift the child welfare system to a prevention model
- Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was accepted by Federal Government in February
- The Department's vision and strategic goals were reviewed:
 - o How does the Statewide Advisory Council and Regional Advisory Councils develop partnerships to move to a "child welfare system"?
- Additional data by region may be helpful:
 - o Youth referred and racial identity
 - o It is difficult to compare data we have to the overall racial makeup of the Region
 - o What then happens when the data is received? Talk as a community? Identify the root cause?
 - o Data would be helpful to show investigations versus family assessment response reports
 - o Data on removals and who is being removed
 - o Schools are the key to getting underneath racial disparities

- Can the Statewide Advisory Council provide guidance surrounding branding and messaging?
- Handouts of the Federal Tools for Change, Program Improvement Plan goals and Casey Family Programs State Fact Sheet were reviewed

Retreat Planning

- Location will be at the Westbrook Elks Club
- Capacity is for 100+ individuals
- Topics to include:
 - Vision and Strategic Plan of the Department
 - Disparate outcomes
 - How can the Regional Advisory Councils operationalize outcomes #1 and #2 of the Consent Decree
 - Cross Agency panel to discuss how we are all working together as a system. Participants should include DCF, OCA, OEC, DMHAS, DDS, DSS, CSSD, OEC and others
 - A youth advisory table will be established to ensure the youth voice and input
 - Regional Advisory Council members should secure attendance and report back during June's meeting.

SAC Housekeeping and Schedule

- Next meeting is June 3rd

Regional Advisory Council Updates

- Due to time constraints, no updates were reported.