

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting (Subject to Revision)
March 13, 2014

Call to Order

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The meeting was held in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members present were: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner, Department of Education
Jeffrey Beckham, Department of Administrative Services
Kip Bergstrom, Department of Economic and Community Development
Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management
Evonne Klein, Department of Housing
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Department of Public Health
Stephen Tracy, Department of Children and Families

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2013.
Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Feature Agency: Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Dr. Stephen Tracy, Superintendent of the DCF Unified School District #2, presented a status report on the implementation of Raise the Grade, Public Act 13-234. Children affected by Raise the Grade are performing below grade level and are in the custody of either the Department of Children and Families or Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch. The goals of the program are to: 1) empower youth that believe that they are the leader of their own learning; 2) literacy; 3) planning for the future (student success plans) and 4) Common Core Standards. Three pilot programs have been established in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven. Coordinators have been hired in all three cities to become liaisons with the school district leadership. DCF and CSDE will annually track academic progress of each child and youth in state custody and develop plans to ensure that all facilities and school programs are meeting the academic and related services of enrolled children and youth. Catherine Foley Geib, CSSD, participated in the presentation regarding the implementation at CSSD. There are scheduled reporting requirements to the Achievement Gap Task Force and the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap.

IV. Department of Economic Development – Higher Order Thinking Schools/Common Core Standards and New London Public Schools.
Kip Bergstrom, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development, presented a new study that is a partnership with New London Public Schools, Office of the Arts and the Garde Arts Center to study the alignment of teaching strategies, assessment models and the Common Core Standards in the 20 Higher Order

Thinking Schools. If the findings of the study are positive, a pilot professional development program will be developed and delivered in New London.

V. State Agency Inventory Tool Review Discussion

State agencies have identified supports and services provided to schools and families that enable students to actively participate in school and achieve academically. The first draft of the matrix was shared with the Council. This information is just the beginning and will grow as we move forward and will be used to connect districts with state agencies and community partners to support their needs. Members were asked to review the list and to update as they see gaps.

VI. Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan Presentation

Miguel Cardona, Co-Chair, Achievement Gap Task Force and David Kennedy, member of the Achievement Gap Task Force, presented the latest version of the Master Plan. This is a document that will be changing and evolving over time. Members agreed to each provide a narrative description of one action they will take to implement strategies in the Master Plan. The role of the Interagency Council is to review and begin to implement the recommendations of the Achievement Gap Task Force. On April 17, 2014, from 10 a.m. to Noon, there will be a stakeholder meeting at the Legislative Office Building. The agency commitments will be compiled into a supplement that will be shared at the stakeholder meeting with the Master Plan.

VII. Updates

Charlene Russell-Tucker provided the following updates:

- Upcoming Alliance District Convening on May 1, 2014, will focus on strengthening community partnership to remove barriers to learning. All members are encouraged to attend.
- Children's Committee, Strategic Action Group on Chronic Absence continues to meet and is currently review chronic absence data and best practices related to reducing chronic absence.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, June 12, 2014.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.