

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2013 - 9:00am-12:00pm

In Attendance: Craig, Alejos, Maria Allegro, Kym Banton, Dianne Breton, Sherry Bryant, Justin Carbonella, Mia DeMarco, Peter DeRosa, Terri DiPietro, Samantha Forbes, Chris Gardner, Nancy Gentes, Ann Grabowski, Donna Grant, Kerri Griffin, Lorna Grivois, Donna Grant, Janice Gruendel, Jon Jacaruso, Alan Jones, Allon Kalisher, Andrew Lavalee, Matthew Lemaster, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Cindy McPherson, Regina Moller, Jennifer Nadeau, Kyle Parkinson, Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Laureen Sheehan, Liz Shulman, Cathy Walton and Jeanne Wigglesworth

Welcome and Introductions

Alana Jones & Donna Grant

Donna will soon be sending out a survey to the group to be completed. This is to connect agencies, systems and organizations. Please identify all of the agencies that you represent.

Review of Minutes

Alana Jones

07/11/13 minutes approved with the addition of Justin Carbonella in attendance.

RAC Membership

Co-Chairs

Donna will work with Robin to look at membership and see where there may be vacancies.

Family Advisory Board

The FAB will be meeting next weekend, they will start to replicate the RAC RBA templates.

SAC Update

Donna Grant

The next SAC meeting is this coming Monday at ValueOptions at 9:00am. There will be a presentation on the DCF strategic plan and how the Commissioner's office plans to connect that plan with communities and to better understand the agendas of each department and what their goals are.

DCF Update

Presentation of DCF Strategic Plan - Dr. Janice Gruendel

Deputy Commissioner Gruendel announced that at the next Continuum of Care Meeting they will be working on bill "13-178 An Act Concerning the Mental Emotional and Behavioral Health of Youths". This bill covers all children in the state, not just DCF involved children. They will also be talking about changes in Title XIX. She welcomed people to participate in the meeting and will send a note to Allon when future meetings occur.

The series of "The First 1,000" forums will begin again.

The attached "Framework for the 2012-2015 DCF Strategic Plan" was presented.

She discussed a report entitled "Blind Spots" which is about prevention, it speaks about preventing children from getting into trouble at an older age if we begin intervention at an early age.

Considered Removals Child and Family Team Meetings RBA

These meetings include a skilled facilitator, assigned staff and family to keep kids at home or in relative foster care or family arrangements. The RBA is to analyze how well we are doing. Year to date 193 have been held in region 3. Removals are currently a little under 18% from April 1, 2013 to July 1, 2013.

Allon explained that region 3 is redesigning their foster care unit to have a kinship team who will be invested in elevating placement decisions.

Discussion began about the need for a data sharing system, conversation has begun with DSS about this.

Report Card: DCF Region 3 Placement of Children in OOS Treatment

Laureen reviewed the attached report card. Placements are declining. Kinship numbers are up.

Workgroup Reports and Presentations of Draft RBA Plans

Early Childhood Workgroup

Nancy Gentes said that her group is working on populating an inventory of resources. She will speak with Lisa Sedlock-Reider about Janice Gruendel joining one of their workgroup meetings.

Education Workgroup

Dianne Breton said that they have met with the Putnam School system to possibly be a site for a pilot program. They hope to get an outposted person there soon. The workgroup will also connect with Anne McIntyre-Lahner to convert their template into an RBA format.

Adolescence Work Group

The group has not met since last month. They have done a lot of work with Anne McIntyre-Lahner on their RBA, and will be meeting with her again. They have worked on protocols and recommendations regarding adult connections and how to support and sustain them. They are struggling with membership and would like to get the voice of kids in their workgroup.

Foster and Adoptive Families Workgroup

This group is working on recruitment. Pam Kelley will participate to make sure everyone is on the same page. They hope to have some results and a completed report card for the November RAC meeting to see if efforts are turning the curve.

Connect Meetings

Allon will provide more information at the next RAC meeting.

JRB's

Donna asked for an update on JRB's at the November RAC meeting. Maria indicated that an RFI has already gone out and the RFP should be out soon.