

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2015

In Attendance:

Banton, Kym	Grivois, Lorna	Rose, Sean
Bendall, Janice	Halpin, Mike	Russo, Robin
Brenker, April	Jones, Alana	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Carbonella, Justin	Kalisher, Allon	Taylor, Jillian
DiPietro, Terri	Keere, Tara	Terry, Shirley
Forbes, Sam	Moller, Regina	Williams, Ryan
Gardner, Chris	Morell, Denise	Zeiner, Cathy
Grant, Donna	Reyes, Loida	

Welcome and introductions

Lorna Grivois

Review of March 5, 2015 minutes

Motion made and accepted for the March 5, 2015 minutes.

Chair Report

CONNECT Update

They are holding off on network of care meetings until they figure out their structure. They have approximately 130 names on their e-mail list,

SAC Update

Regina is the new co-chair. The SAC representative in the region brings ideas from the RAC to the SAC and they in turn will report back. The SAC is also asking that a FAB member attend their meetings along with a family member. They are practicing using DCF's video equipment to use when people cannot attend in person. They meet every other month.

Regina indicated that region 3 had not submitted their recommendations, Lorna said that they not only submitted them but submitted it early.

Lorna spoke about CIT which is crisis intervention training

FAB Update

The group met this past Saturday. Susan Kelly from KTP is coming to the next meeting to talk about budget and policy. The group spoke about lack of knowledge of pediatrician's, first responders and educators on children's mental health diagnoses, programs and services available which lead to discussion on what providers are doing to educate people in the community. It was suggested using EMPS for training.

Chris spoke about the crossover youth initiative.

Allon suggested one of the recommendations to the SAC could be to make a concerted effort for a parent voice on reducing stigma around children's mental health.

Finalizing Committee Structure

The RAC has legislative responsibility to ensure the right people are at the table.

Prior to the next RAC meeting on August 6, Donna and Lorna will compile the list of current voting members to look at statute to see what seats need to be filled, they will put together some documents to discuss at the next meeting. Chris suggested having a place on the agenda for recommendations to be submitted to the SAC.

DCF Update

Management Updates

Allon announced changes in Region 3 managers. Chris Gardner is now overseeing 2 intake/FAR units, one training unit, one adolescent unit and one voluntary unit in the Willimantic office. Leslie Roy is now in Norwich overseeing one adolescent unit, one voluntary/probate unit, one adolescent/in-home unit and one parole unit. Carissa Lebrun is the new program manager in Willimantic overseeing one training unit, two permanency units and two intake/FAR units. Linda Lukin will oversee one in-home unit and assist Jon Jacaruso on systems development, primarily on flex spending.

Data Highlights

Allon announced that the region has made progress in a number of ways. At the next meeting we will go over data more in depth. There has been a concerted area of focus in getting permanency teaming underway. The goal is to insert permanency teaming into every case. Region 3 has had forums on permanency teaming with judges and providers. Chris added that permanency teaming also benefits the department and providers as well.

Racial Justice - Denise Morell & Ryan Williams

Goals of the Statewide Racial Justice Workgroup are:

- Explore our own internal biases and gain equity among all staff.
- Diminish disparities on all levels (for children, families and staff and within our own agency leadership)
- Achieve equity in meeting families needs at the area office level (reduce disparities at all decision making points).

Denise explained that in order to do the racial justice work you need to look at yourself. She explained a recent training she attended called Racism for the Well-Intended and her introduction to white privilege.

In 2013 the Commissioner mandated that the work be done to strive to achieve racial justice within the Department and for the providers and families we serve. They are focusing on implicit bias and systemic racism.

Ryan and Denise provided the "Walk of Privilege" activity for people to reflect on their experiences and recommended that the group view the Ted Talks from Melody Hobson "Color Blind or Color Brave" and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichies "The Danger of a Single Story".

Chris mentioned that it was noticed that slides in the Mandated Reporter training used white families for positive experiences and people of color for negative experiences, the training academy has since changed this.

Careline now asks cultural questions and so do intake forms. We are asking families how they identify themselves.

Region 3 has moved forward in teaming with FASU to pre and post licensed foster parents about race, culture and ethnicity and the importance of delving into a child's ethnic background especially when they are a different race than the foster parents.

The regional racial justice group meets monthly, they also have meetings within each office. Denise can provide information about times and structure of these meetings if anyone is interested.

Trainings that the Department receives on racial justice is also being offered to providers.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, contact information was provided on their handout

RAC Committees

Adolescents – Featured presentation to update strategic planning activities

Chris stated that the Department did not previously have data on kids that have left the department. They have recently created a survey that looked at connections after they left care and the means that they have. This work was added to the 2015 strategic plan.

The survey will be given to youth when leaving care who are without legal permanency. There are two pages of questions for connections and 2 pages for means. The survey will then again be administered six months after they have left care. This will inform the work in terms of services and be used as a tool for staff when they administer the survey. A database will be created to track this information.

Chris spoke about a partnership between DCF and CSSD on crossover youth which is an evidence based model. He is working on infrastructure on how to identify these kids that have current DCF involvement. They will look at disparity, diversion and prevention.

Regina spoke about the willingness of the police to work with the department around alternatives to arresting kids

Early Childhood

Lisa just completed 8 days of infant mental health training which she found very valuable.

Allon spoke about the importance of community connections to further this work.

Donna mentioned the Commissioners task force headed by Elizabeth Duryea which focuses on early childhood, this would be a pertinent connection.

Other Updates

SOC Collaboratives

Family Access will be making a decision on whether they will fold and go back to the Greater Middletown collaborative.

Justin reported that the Greater Middletown Collaborative benefitted from LIST funding for services. They are currently working on systems issues to better understand how they navigate the system. They now have JRB and flex funding money which has created opportunities. Donna added that TEEG is also having great success with these dollars as well.

LIST/JRB

TEEG is invested in finding private money. They have been fortunate to get a grant that creates a community drama program and they have sanctioned JRB kids to participate. This program includes the drama piece and a psychologist. It is from 5:00-7:00 at night and will help kids create a connection in the drama community.

For further information contact TEEG.

Providers

Kym Banton reported that UCFS is looking to fill the Community Network Program clinician position for northeast CT.