



The Connecticut Department of Children and Families - Region 3

Family Advisory Board

Regional Advisory Council (RAC)

Family Advisory Board

Mission: Bringing families together to share their experiences and provide the family voice and perspective to the Regional Advisory Council for Region 3.

Vision: Our purpose is to improve the quality of life by strengthening and empowering families through outreach, support, education and advocacy.

RAC FAB Strategic Plan

Comments and Explanations

2a – Keeping children in their homes

- Not recognizing the emotional impact, psychological safety and trauma.
VIEW: *If it isn't a physical safety issue then the department is not being proactive/preventative.*
- Not recognizing the emotional effects of domestic violence, its impact on the children and other family members

2b – Kinship care; home not being properly evaluated before placing children

- Concern of individuals within a family who may not be well: Overlooking the generational/genetic family dysfunction/disabilities (especially behavior and/or mental health issues) Other family members may have similar histories or undiagnosed conditions thus exposing the kids to the same conditions they had to be removed from. Will everyone in the home be evaluated such as non-biological family residents that will include personal associations the children are exposed to in the home on a constant basis
- Are background checks being used as part of the evaluation?
VIEW: *End result would be keeping the children from being put into the same environment they were removed from just so they can enter kin care. I realize eventually there are limitations and lines that can't be crossed but the more extensive the evaluation the greater chance the children have for success.*
- What is the definition of "home"? Physical location? Residents? or Both?
VIEW: *I don't think they should be lumped together; they really are two separate areas of concerns and should be considered as such*
- Not looking at the social/emotional safety and well being but only the physical safety
- Poor departmental footwork : not making the proper calls to schools, doctors... of children in care of the department
- There is a feeling that there is more concern about numbers than about the physical/emotional safety
- Poor safety planning or poor follow-through of a safety plan if there is one
- The departments decisions when it comes to the emotional safety and happiness of children

2e – Community Based services ineffective

1. **Not enough...**
 - a. Quality Therapeutic Mentors

- b. Family advocates
- c. Preventative programs
- d. Awareness of/not versed in the dynamics of psychologically abusive relationships and its traumatic impact on children
- e. Awareness of/Professionals not versed in the long term effects of childhood trauma
- a. Quality and thoughtful discharge planning. What/where is the next step and is it in place?

2. *Unknown/can't find them*

- a. Poor marketing of Care Coordination
- b. Private providers not knowing about other services
- c. Quality Therapeutic Mentoring
- d. Respite
- e. Family Advocates
- f. Preventative programs

3. *Underfunded/Waitlist*

- a. Family advocates
- b. Respite

4. *Time limited*

- b. Everything