

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting

November 17, 2015
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Deb Bastie, Sarah Becker, Tim Carrol, Alice Farrell, Tammy Harris-Wilson Wayne Johnson (DCF), Beth Landolina (DCF), Nick Lebron, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF), Judi Orlando, Alana Parkinson, Martha Stone, Linda Trigilio, Maritza Velez (DCF), Jeanette White (DCF), Beresford Wilson

Voting Members Absent: Jeremiah Ames, Sophia Brown, Carlene Davis, Bryan Flint, Hector Glynn, Bernetta Henry, Cory Jacobs, Giselle Jacobs, Diane Kearney, Lorna Little, ,

The DCF Region 4 RAC meeting was held at the Hartford DCF office from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. This meeting is for the full membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The overview of the meeting was a by-law updating discussion, DCF presentation overview, community sharing, Sub-committee/CQI team update and the SAC update.

Minutes review

- Motion to accept the July 2015 minutes made by Beresford Wilson
- 2nd by Alana Parkinson-all in favor

SAC Update

- No update since the last meeting
- We will be getting an update on System of Care
- We will get an update on the by-laws of Hartford System of Care
- Update on the RAC by-laws

By-Law Update

- Tabled until the next full members meeting

DCF Presentation Overview

- Region IV is looking deep into the data for our Region
- Presentation next week to the Commissioner
- We are not meeting OM3 (case planning measure) Hartford @ 25%, Manchester @ 75%
- Needs Met Measure the goal is 80%, Hartford is @ 25%, Manchester is @ 75%
- What are the barriers to meeting this measure?
- The Court Monitors look 4 case per quarter in Manchester and 8 cases in Hartford
- Reunification Measure the goal is 60%, both Hartford & Manchester are 50%
- We do reunify more than 50% but not within the 12 months
- Effective use of the TFT program will help us to meet this goal
- Some unmet needs are In-Home cases-DCF can identify the need but cannot make the parent address it-if referrals are not made and MDE no completed within 30 days
- 100 families have been referred to this program and we are beginning to see the results
- Frequency of visits In-Home- Manchester met this measure and Hartford is 1% away from meeting the goal
- Number of Children Diverted- the Region improved this quarter and have a steady decline of children coming into care
- Family arrangements are being looked at to see where these children are 3 months later
- Region is holding steady on the number of children in Congregate Care (CC)
- Children Residing Safely at home CQI team is working on this-how do we support Foster families and how to exit children for CC?
- Therapeutic Family Time (TFT) service to help us with this-this is an area of focus
- Conversations with youth as to who they want on their team-Circle of Support tool, Sands of Time tool used with youth to find out who is important to them
- Teaching staff to use these tools and have the conversations with youth
- The court collaborative was yesterday-we brought these Permanency tools to this meeting
- Attorneys at the meeting were given these tools to use too
- Steering Committee is creating a fact sheet/flyer for families about the process and who they should invite to meetings
- Prepare and support the workforce-paying attention to the supervision model
- Working with the training academy for Program Manager (PM) development
- Hartford has a new PM team, they have done an assessment and teams building
- Several PM & 3 SWS are in the Leadership Academy at the National Level
- Chris Lau attended a Conference on Differential Response System (DRS)-nice to see where CT stands compared to other states
- We are better in most areas but some need improvement
- DRS is not holding to the model-we in CT are solid

- Family Assessment Response-We are partnering with UCONN to study FAR
- November is National Adoption Month-statewide 510 children were adopted, 117 from Region IV
- Friday 11/20 at 9:30 there will be finalized adoptions in open court
- The Commissioner, Governor will be there, it is open to the public-13 adoptions from Hartford

Sub Committees

- 2 committees are active, Membership & Outreach group and the Professional Development Group
- Any RAC member can join a CQI team
- What should we move forward?
- What should we sunset?
- Healthy Development has been active too
- Could form ADHOC committees around the issues
- What are the Department's needs? What can RAC help with?
- Presentation on performance expectations can help to give the RAC an idea of where we are struggling-Juvenile Justice, Permanency and Congregate Care
- **Racial justice CQI**- Sarah and Diane have joined this committee and gave positive feedback
- **Committee very well run and very organized**-asked for RAC members input
- This committee completed reviews of 113 intakes-Did we identify our family's race & ethnicity?
- Workforce Development-Dr. Dejesus came for 3 days and facilitated a dialog around comfort level talking about race
- Team completed a survey to see how SWS felt talking with their staff about race-23 responded to the survey-we are looking at the data
- We are looking at all areas of our work through a Racial Justice lens
- **Permanency Teaming CQI**-building our capacity for teamings
- This CQI team needs members from the RAC
- **Children Safely at Home CQI**-Alana & Kathy have joined this committee
- This committee developed an information sheet for foster families
- Alana and Kathy gave very positive feedback-making good progress, very interesting
- This team communicates well with the RAC members

- **Case Planning**-Zoe attends this CQI team meetings
- **Professional Development**-Beth, Judy and Deb are on this committee
- Bulletin board created with opportunities, information sessions held December in both offices
- Mentees to be matched with mentors
- Supervision feedback tool-will follow up

Miscellaneous

- Community sharing-West Hartford/Hartford Systems of Care
- DRS program presented
- 2 sub-committees-Child Specific Team (CST) is connecting families to supports and Legal chaired by Bernetta Henry and a student that is working on a thesis on bullying
- 4 systems of care are East of the River, North Central, Route 2 and West Hartford/Hartford
- Quarterly meeting is on 12/04 at Value Options
- DDS-early autism waiver-Value Options will now take this over
- JJ POC legislative committee meets monthly

Motion to adjourn by Beresford and 2nd by Alana Parkinson

The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall