

# Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday July 12, 2012, 9:00 - 12:00 pm

## In Attendance:

Anderson, Bill	Grivois, Lorna	Nadeau, Jennifer
Bendall, Janice	Haggett, Mae	Parkinson, Kyle
Breton, Dianne	Jacaruso, Jon	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Clarke, Emily	Jones, Alana	Sheehan, Laureen
DiPietro, Terri	Kalisher, Allon	Shulman, Liz
Forbes, Samantha	Lacey, Chris	Slater, Ann
Forko, Danielle	Lader, Eileen	Suchocki, John
Gardner, Christopher	Maben, Joann	Tompkins, Bonnie
Gentes, Nancy	Martin, Bill	Zorba, Bethany
Grabowski, Ann	McPherson, Cindy	
Grant, Donna	Nadeau, Allyson	

**Welcome and Introductions** Alana Jones & Samantha Forbes

**Review of Minutes** Alana Jones

05/03/12 meeting minutes approved without change.

**RAC Membership** Alana Jones

- Voting members were asked to make any changes/corrections to the draft "RAC Voting Members" list that was circulated. Robin will change "R" designation for representative to "V" for voting member.
- Liz Schulman nominated Justin Carbinella to represent GMCC.
- Terri DiPietro and Eileen Lader will no longer share a position but will each be separate voting members representing MAC.

**Gas Card Report** Lorna Grivois

- Lorna now has the \$30.00 dollar gas cards for family members to use to attend meetings.
- Eligibility for a gas card requires a minimum 3 meeting attendance which can be any combination of a RAC meeting, a systems of care meeting or an area advisory council meeting.
- A stipend form can be obtained from Lorna and must be completed by the person requesting the gas card and then approved by a co-chair or designee for each meeting that they have already attended. The form is then given to Lorna, who will provide the gas card and keep records of each gas card given out.
- Lorna will contact collaborative co-chairs to get the word out to other families.

**DCF Update** Allon Kalisher & DCF Leads

- The dashboard was discussed.

- An article in the courant on Sunday reflected a lot of the trends including reduction of kids in congregate care, increase of kids in kinship and getting kids place out-of-state back home.
- The Commissioner has established that she would like to see at least 30 percent in kinship care, no more than 20 percent in congregate care and continue to target kids under 12 in care.
- There is some reorganizing of ValueOptions staff. Some will be identified to be placed in the regions in an effort to lessen the number of kids in cong care. Have them involved from the beginning on discharge planning. This is still a work in progress, Allon will provide an update at the next meeting and maybe introduce those individuals.
- Family systems staff will also connect into this network management.
- Allon has worked with others involved in the Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program (RSVP) to compete for a federal (ACF) Regional Partnership Grant. The RSVP program is funded through Project Safe to work with parents with substance abuse that have children removed by OTC. Services are weaved into the court process to create more tolerance for treatment. The RPG, if granted, would expand on substance abuse services to include coordination and linkage with early childhood intervention, trauma-informed services.
- Our department is also applying for a federal grant from ACF to increase supportive housing. This is a five million dollar grant and region 3 would be targeted.
- Legislation was passed around expansion of early head start. Hartford and Manchester has a grant focused on this population between the ages of 2 and 5 years old.
- Yesterday the Governor approved 180 new school readiness slots, if you have a grant see if your community has additional slots.
- Jon Jacaruso reminded all that relative and kin can be licensed from the get go. Dashboard report reflects progress but still short of the Commissioners goal. Just completed a region wide training on kinship. Build a support system from the beginning and include kin. Training has reinforced this philosophy.
- Icebreakers are a new initiative in region 3 which is to facilitate conversation between the bio parents and foster parents within 3 days of placement with a focus on the child. Can discuss likes and dislikes of the child, alleviate stress on the parents wondering where the child is sleeping and who they are living with. Need some foster parents to help write up procedures. Pam Kelley will discuss with her foster care workgroup.

## **Community Reports**

## **AAC & SOC Chairs**

### **Middletown**

- Lisa said that Middletown has a lot of cross pollination in workgroups.

### **Norwich**

- Parole for the region is being managed in Norwich. Chris said that parole is physically moving in Norwich. They have carved out a place so parole kids can be seen safely and not be in the same area as DCF kids and families. They are working on a procedure of how these kids will enter and exit the office.
- Parole is excited and wants to be a part of the region. Looking at how to include Willimantic and Middletown and get input from those offices and not just manage from Norwich. We have three parole officers that sit in Norwich and one at CJTS. Parole is undergoing a lot of changes. Used to have staff solely covering gangs and sex offenders. How do we get back to these specialties that regionally? This is benefitting both DCF and parole.

- Norwich is piloting a process at the intake phase to involve parents in the transfer meeting (from intake to ongoing services). One of Kyle's supervisors spoke in front of the Commissioner yesterday about the benefits of having the family sit in on this and found both situations revolutionary. Several other offices across the state have said that they want to do this too.

### **Willimantic**

- Lauren asked for people to seriously talk up fostering, word of mouth is the best advertising.
- Dianne said that Willimantic is still working hard to have one QI team. They have developed sub groups of that team and would like some provider representation. The sub groups are the Transfer of Learning group who's goal is to figure out how to be consistent in and outside the office. Another group is working on how to increase technological savvy using SharePoint. Another group is working on case transfers. There is also a case plan QI team. Beth asked for additional participation. People can contact Beth. She will commit to putting this onto the website to give people a clear sense of what is available to them to join
- Janice Bendall is continuing an initiative on school bullying. They are in the process of trying to get a lot of the community involved on what the school climate is. Collaboratives are offering feedback and support to climate committees.
- Jen Nadeau said that they are focusing on the provider fair scheduled for next spring and this fall there will be a kinship care forum.
- Donna Grant announced that there is a child grant coming into the area with UCFS and United Services.
- Willimantic will participate in a pilot program for Triple P Positive Parent program. Putnam, Woodstock, Killingly, Pomfret and Thompson are the 5 communities that are part of the pilot. This is modeled around a public health approach to positive parenting with all parties involved in raising a child. Family enrichment programs across the state will now be using triple p.
- Donna would like to connect to synergize DCF and DSS

### **RAC Purpose Review & Connection to Practice Model Implementation** Allon Kalisher, Alana Jones & Samantha Forbes

- Allon invited Tim and Alana to join the next Regional Steering Team meeting in October.
- Allon provided a one pager for reference about the purpose of the RAC.
- Allon reminded all that we are here to inform one another and this is a place where our regions priorities can be better solidified. Hoping that things that come up in other groups such as recommendations for change will come to this table and this would be a place to vet those changes as a region.
- The Commissioner's vision in restructuring is that regions would be stronger voices in determining how we need to be configured in order to meet the needs of the community. This is the table to make that happen.
- Project East is interested in promoting funding and wrote a letter to the Commissioner. While advocating like this is not discouraged, the RAC serves as a place where the local collaboratives and area councils can vet their ideas to seek broader, region-wide endorsement and priority.
- April Brenker is participating in the RBA training to begin the work of what we are trying to do with results based accountability which forces us to think about how well we are

doing and is anyone better off because of it. Develop strategies to turn the curve in RBA language and continue to monitor.

- You do not have to participate in the RAC to be in a workgroup.
- After breakouts we will all come back for further discussion.

### **Workgroup Breakouts**

<b>Early Childhood</b>	Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Jon Jacaruso,
<b>Education/Middle Childhood</b>	Dianne Breton
<b>Adolescence</b>	Chris Gardner
<b>Foster Care/Kinship/Adoption</b>	Jon Jacaruso
<b>Regional Service System</b>	Jon Jacaruso, Lauren Sheehan, Samantha Forbes

### **Workgroup Reports**

Samantha Forbes

Chris Gardner reported for the Adolescent workgroup:

- Brainstormed about who could come to the table. Came up with a list of different people and entities that could join.
- They discussed looking at the trauma informed piece.
- Look at current services in place, gaps and focus on partnership.
- Look at array of services currently in place and what is effective and can they be improved. Where are there redundancies?
- Prioritize these goals in order to make recommendations.
- Liz Schulman volunteered to co-lead.

Lauren Sheehan reported for the Regional Service Systems workgroup:

- Discussed who else they need in the group.
- Discussed what they are going to do, how they will do it and how they will know when they are done
- There is need to create a data base of information which will be a critical tool for analysis of the network of services and systems that impact the region.

Lisa Sedlock-Reider reported for the Early Childhood workgroup:

- Lisa will speak with Dianne about adding Willimantic representation in the group.
- Will need someone from head-start, hospital representation, child first, LEARN and child readiness.
- There is lack of coordination of all the programs.
- Look at fragmentation, coordination and funding services.
- Look at follow-up on doctor appointments after babies are born.
- Look at families that have been in a certain medical group and then suddenly change to another.
- Allon suggested that the co-chairs of this group invite Janice Gruendel who has shown interest in an early childhood workgroup and she would possibly designate someone to attend in her absence.

Jon Jacaruso reported for the Foster Care/Adoptive/Kinship workgroup

- Tried to identify who is not at the table.
- Looking for a possible co-chair.
- Discussed that we are at 22% for kinship care and how to get to 30%.
- Do a better job up front of supporting foster families.
- Spoke about different things to do to identify kin and family.
- There is public relations work that needs to be done.
- Jon invited the workgroup to attend the 07/25/12 RBA workgroup.

Donna Grant reported for the Education workgroup:

- Donna co-chair.
- Discussed importance of having other state representatives join the group.
- Struggling with purpose and goal.
- Cross cutting theme is the development of stronger community partnerships.
- Improve lines of communication between providers and all those who are involved with the kids, make the child be collectively everyone's.