

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2015

In Attendance:

Brenker, April	Jones, Alana
Carbonella, Justin	Jones, Shana
DiMauro, Nancy	Kalisher, Allon
Forbes, Samantha	Reyes, Loida
Gardner, Chris	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Grivois, Lorna	Stebbins, Christine
Halpin, Myke	

Welcome and Introductions

Lorna Grivois

Review of June 16, 2015 minutes

Motion made and accepted for the June 16, 2015 minutes with the necessary changes.

Chair Report

Due to other conflicts, Donna Grant stepped down as Co-Chair of the RAC. Let Lorna or Allon know of your interest in being co-chair. Hopefully a decision will be made by September. Look at Board Membership at next month's meeting.

SAC Update

The SAC is still looking for representation from the RAC. Let Lorna know of your interest. The SAC Retreat is being held all day on Sept 14th in Middletown. Looking for 4 people from the RAC to attend. Myke is having a conference call on Tuesday to iron out the details and will get out final plan to the RAC members. Let Lorna know of your interest to attend.

FAB Update

There have been two meetings since the last RAC meeting. At the July meeting Susan Kelly talked about changes due to budget cuts and how it affects families. Youth homelessness and housing resonated with the group. The speaker at the September meeting will be Katherine Fontaine. Mini workshops for kids has been started, bullying will be the topic at the September meeting. A youth engagement specialist will be attending the October FAB meeting.

Lorna provided a brief overview of what the FAB is and what it provides to families. She mentioned that out of the 18 parents on the mailing list, approximately 8 – 10 parents attend regularly. There is ongoing recruitment of families. Loida asked Lorna to send her a brochure. Lorna invited Chris to the meeting in October. Nancy will also go to October meeting to discuss the development of ISS as it may be useful for parents to hear about it.

CONNECT Update

Network of care meetings are still on hold. A Youth and Family Engagement specialist was hired. There was a short discussion with regards to conducting a training for parents with possible locations in Middletown and Plainfield.

Voting Membership

Voting membership discussion tabled.

DCF Update

2015 Strategic Plan:

Quarterly update was presented a couple weeks ago; more details can be provided if needed. Allon reiterated that each office holds monthly QIT meetings.

Lisa discussed the goals of Racial Justice Objective. It is in the beginning stages of looking at data around disproportionality, families of color in care, sub rates, case opening rates, children that get removed and disparate outcomes. A protocol has been developed for staff when going in the field to look at race and ethnicity. Allon added that the Racial Justice lens is being incorporated in all aspects of the work.

Kyle provided an outcome measure update. Court monitor reviews have seen a lot of scatter along those lines depending on what is identified. Last paragraph speaks to how we are doing with case plans. Developing a new way with case plans. It's now a "did or didn't happen". Allon highlighted that the region is doing very well; but what we don't do well as a state or region is the length of time kids are in care. We have done well with relative care. Study that more and fine tune the practice. Commissioner is continuing to pursue to get out of the consent decree. 14 measures are up for recertification.

Nancy discussed Strategy 2; Children residing safely with families. Continuing to do well with a reduction in disproportionality. A numbers of factors are being looked at to lower congregate care. Discussed the process for holding permanency teaming meetings. Continuing to use the Casey consultant, Lauren Frey for Permanency Training events. Allon added this is another area where we are looking at racial disparity. The most disparity is for black children. Focus on Juvenile justice and adolescent success measure. Community partnerships are very relevant to this work. Length of stay for kin care numbers are down. Looking at mix of age of kids coming into care; Willimantic has the highest percentage of children under the age of 5.

Allon gave the update on PE4 in Jon's absence. As a region we are at 39%. The focus is on kids who can't identify a permanent home. Sufficient connections are lacking. Allon is continuing to talk with the national coordinator of Three Villages program to work with them. Looking to partner with Linda Dixon and Elizabeth Duryea to get money for this program.

April provided an update on mentor/mentee project with regards to Permanency Teaming within the juvenile justice system, specifically focusing on kids released to go home. Highlighted that the permanency tools have been revised slightly to fit this population and began working on a couple of cases. Allon would like to focus on crossover youth as a way to intervene.

Loida updated on PE5; we are looking at supervision through Racial Lens. Focus groups that meet on a regular basis have been formulated to work on the top three concerns stated in the Staff Satisfaction survey. Communication was a major theme. We are currently working on ways to communicate in a timely manner. A number of our leaders have been participating in the Leadership Academy. The Willimantic office continues to struggle with staff retention.

Development of an Integrated Service System

Nancy talked about the development, purpose and who the key representatives would be of ISS. There was question as to it looking like the Community Transition Program. Allon stated that the components are similar but clarified that its function would be to provide comprehensive support and services to families.

Provider Roundtable Discussion

Discussion was tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17

Next RAC Meeting – September 3, 2015