

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2017

In Attendance:

Allain, Tiffanie	Harrington, Colleen	Lussier, Jennifer
Banton, Kym	Hooker, Jinelle	Miller, Ann
Brenker, April	Howroyd, Josh	Moller, Regina
Calamari, Annie	Jacaruso, Jon	Parkinson, Kyle
DiMauro, Nancy	Kalisher, Allon	Russo, Robin
Gardner, Chris	Kelley, Pam	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Grivois, Lorna	Kolpak, Karalee	Stebbins, Christine
Halpin, Myke	Lacey, Chris	Taylor, Jillian
Hall, Gabrielle	LaFaille, Pamela	

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept the June 1, 2017 minutes with the correction of clarifying that Greater Middlesex not DCF has the 2 slots a month for SRT.

SAC Update

Myke reported that the Commissioner attended the last meeting. The group is looking to interact with 211 to update resource lists. They are working on a retreat in November, there is a planning call on 09/15/17. There was discussion about the system review panels which are distinct bodies from RAC. They have proposed to have just the SAC and RAC. They are waiting to hear about the new oversight council will be created and if the SAC will continue.

FAB Update

They are in the process of planning next month's meeting and will have speakers to address youth suicides in Connecticut. The FAB is looking to increase their membership and Lorna asked this group to please try to get the word out. They discussed recruitment efforts specific to foster care for young children. Increase efforts to develop more of a relationship with DMHAS.

Allon announced Willimantic's newly appointed Office Director, Dave Silva.

Suicide Advisory Board Toolkit/Resources

There has been discussion with Killingly Schools on youth suicides. Schools need to be better equipped to deal with this issue. It was suggested that we have 1 or 2 members from the Suicide Advisory Board present at the November RAC meeting.

Foster Care Strategic Plan

Jon provided a PowerPoint presentation "Region 3: Foster Care Update. Some highlights provided are; as of 09/05/17 DCF has 196 licensed foster homes and 205 kin homes. Also as of 09/05/17 there are 377 licensed beds for core homes and 296 beds licensed for kin homes. Jon discussed the current issue of overcapacity in our foster homes and reasons for homes closing. Blood kin homes has the highest disruption rate. Pam discussed low vacancy rates in our homes and indicated that therapeutic foster homes are limited to one placement.

Jon discussed foster parent trainings in region 3, they have not held any in 9 months. There is a new curriculum that is for 10 consecutive weeks, 3 hours one night a week. Last calendar year we held 14 trainings which is more than any other region. We have done joint trainings with Waterford Country School. It was asked how long the licensing process is, it is 6-8 months currently.

All of Pam's staff are assigned a town to look for community events for recruitment efforts. Pam will send this list to this group and asked that all notify the correct person on the list if they are aware of community events.

Jon invited anyone at this table to join his Recruitment and Retention meetings. People are welcome to call in as well to participate. The focus is to discuss upcoming holiday events. Jon will send out the meeting details.

It was discussed if there needs to be a formal RAC sub-committee to work on recruitment and retention. It was decided that there does not need to be a formal group and that Jinelle, Jill, Myke, Kym and Lorna will attend Jon's already created group.

Legislative Update

Josh provided all a summary of what passed during the regular session which is also available on the Department's website. Legislators have not finished business for 2017. They are still at an impasse and are scheduled to come in a week from today. If nothing is decided we will function on a budget under executive order of the Governor.

What will most likely force budget resolution will be towns needing their budgets. If and when a budget is adopted they will stay in special session to create budget implementation bills.

Some of the major things on the table are juvenile justice possibly transferring to the judicial department. DCF has made it clear they do not support this decision. There is movement to close CJTS

to be complete by July 2018. The population is not decreasing and remains steady. If this facility closes this will put immense pressure on congregate care facilities.

Once a budget is adopted Josh will come back to this group to update.

Liz Duryea sent out a memo soliciting legislative proposals for 2018. The deadline is 09/15/17 for preliminary concepts. Josh invited this group to let him know over the next couple of days if there are any proposals people may have.

Provider Updates

Beacon Healthcare

Jill reported that they are working on the Collaborative survey through CONNECT, they will reach out to 211 to come to the November RAC to present and provide feedback. Jill also reported on the CONNECT Health Equity Plan which is a free 6 month process to provide assessment on where providers need improvement.

Jill reached out to her church and others of the same denomination.

Jill reported that they are holding a third annual ICAN conference with various panels presenting and this will be consumer run. It is on 09/28/17 at 8:30am in Hartford at the Artist Collective.

Dads Matter Too

Myke announced the "Dads Matter Too!" walk and community awareness day on September 23, 2017, 10:00am at Harbor Park in Middletown.

United Services

They are holding their "Super Hero Fun Day" on October 7, 2017, 10:00 at 303 Putnam Road, Wauregan. There will be crafts, an obstacle course, games and food. RSVP by 09/22.

Noank

Regina announced their new program that provides intensive permanent supportive housing training 18-24 year olds that are homeless, they also provide support for finding jobs or help with school.