

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2014

In Attendance:

Banton, Kym	Hart, Ava	Shulman, Liz
Brenker, April	Kalisher, Allon	Stebbins, Christine
Forbes, Sam	Nabers, Lance	Stevens, Kristina
Gardner, Chris	Rein, Wendy	Care Westcott
Gentes, Nancy	Reyes, Loida	Jeannie Wigglesworth
Grant, Donna	Russo, Robin	
Grivois, Lorna	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa	

Welcome and introductions

Lorna Grivois

Presentation by Kristina Stevens: An Update from the Clinical and Community Consultation and Support Division

Kristina reviewed the offices in her division which is the Clinical and Community Consultation and Support Division. This represents a sampling of projects these respective offices are supporting:

Sara Lourie oversees the Office of Interagency Client Planning which includes DMHAS and DDS

Mary Painter oversees the Office of Substance Use and Intimate Partner Violence which includes MST, MDFT, Project SAFE and Intimate Family Violence Services.

Paul Shanley oversees the Office of Community Support Services which includes CONCEPT Grant, Outpatient Psychiatric Clinics for Children and EDT.

Tim Marshall oversees the Office of Community Mental Health which includes CONNECT Grant, PA 13-178, EMPS and Care Coordination.

Karen Anderson oversees the Office of the CT Behavioral Health Partnership which includes Primary point of contact for Value Options and the CT BHP and the Behavioral Health Oversight Council.

Currently the position is vacant for oversight of the Office of CW, Early and Middle Childhood which includes Prevention, Early Childhood, Intensive Family Preservation/Reunification, Child and Family Teaming and Community Support for Families

Jacqueline Harris oversees the Centralized Medication Consent Unit (CMCU) which includes ACCESS Mental Health, Centralized Medication Consent and the Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee.

Kristina also reviewed the "Behavioral Health Response Pathway".

Review of Minutes

A motion was made and accepted for the 09/04/14 minutes.

Chair Report

Family Advisory Board

The FAB is asking for someone from the Department to come to their meetings and Lorna invited Allon to come to the March 14, 2015 meeting.

Their next meeting is this Saturday and Lorna asked if there was anything that this group wanted brought back to the FAB. Loida asked for advice on when families sit at various tables and then become involved with DCF, how is that navigated? Lorna will address this with the FAB.

SAC Update

The group is working to amend the legislative statutes to allow for a change to membership to be more diversified and change to commissioner approval of membership applications rather than the Governor. There was discussion of ways to screen new SAC candidates to assure there is a more diverse representation.

A Membership Committee was established to review meeting times potentially to change to accommodate family participation.

Checks for regions went out for RAC's use according to applications.

A motion was adopted in regards to leaves of absence over three consecutive meetings of a RAC member to find a replacement. Region 3 needs to assign another SAC member given Donna is not attending. Regina attends but she is not a RAC representative as her appointment to the SAC is through the Governor and they require a RAC representative in addition to anyone else from the region which does not have to be one of the co-chairs, but has to be appointed by the RAC.

DCF Updates

Allon presented the PowerPoint presentation "Transformation of Connecticut's Child Welfare System" and spoke about some data highlights: reduction in placements, increased relative/kin placements, reduced out of state placements, reduction of children under the age of 12 in congregate care, pre-certification of 11 of the 22 Juan F. Outcome Measures and the release from the federal program improvement plan by achieving 8 federal measures needing improvement.

April pointed out the wrong date on slide 14 it should read 10/01/13 to 10/01/14/15.

There will be big changes with the number of measures, the 2015 Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the next RAC meeting.

Donna discussed the juvenile justice request for proposal. Region 3 and Region 6 were awarded the Connecticut Youth Services Association contract. This will assist in moving kids from being in front of a JRB. CYSA will meet with all the JRB's in region 3 to figure out how to distribute the dollars based on the last three years of the amount of referrals. The hope is that we will be able to have representation from CYSA at the RAC, Donna will invite them to join the RAC.

Community Transition Program

Wendy Rein is looking for feedback from this group. They are shifting their focus from serving DCF youth and are resurrecting the service review team model for prevention, to defer kids from DCF altogether. The Goal is to have services be locally focused and understand challenges for youth and families. Currently they have two staff members and one vacancy that they are looking to fill, these 3 would serve the entire region. The wish is to eventually have multiple teams in every county. Kym Banton has accepted a supervisory position for this team.

Community Transition Program will now be called Community Network Program. This will afford parents or caregivers the opportunity to sit with a group to discuss services for the child without having to go through DCF. Donna offered to host the Windham person for any piece of their work. Clinicians will be attached to collaboratives and the NEST. Jon Jacaruso is the go to person for this contract when a family is discovered that needs a DCF funded service. Kym reminded all that this is a new process and asked for people to be patient. A motion was made to endorse the direction of this team, motion was favored.

CONNECT

Justin introduced the group to Troy who is a marketer who developed a strategy for the group. He is creating an awareness campaign for the community to assist with connecting families and providers to the services in their community. The general message is that there are services in our communities and we all need help to access them. Their next meeting is 11/14/14 at 1:30 at Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Road, if someone cannot make a meeting they can send someone else or submit ideas via e-mail.

Represented at the Region 3 Network of Care table are numerous community providers, educators, departments and families.

A motion was and accepted to endorse the team to create a campaign.

Donna will reach out to a birth to three provider to participate.

Supportive Housing

Jeannie indicated that they currently have approximately 135 referrals in the project control group who are randomized to a wait list. Their treatment group have about 52 families in the project. The population being referred to them so far is high risk open cases with DCF involvement. They are seeing adults and children with mental health and substance abuse issues with prior DCF involvement. They are larger families with younger children who have criminal histories and domestic violence, they are hitting their target population.

ISHIFT Pilot

Allon relayed that intake managers are responsible for ensuring a quick screening is completed for all cases.

Allon announced that each region is getting to take advantage of infant mental health trainings and he extended an invitation for anyone that wants to participate.