

## Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2015

### In Attendance:

Banton, Kym	Gardner, Christopher	Kalisher, Allon
Bendall, Janice	Gentes, Nancy	Kellert, Libby
Brenker, April	Griffith, Kate	Moller, Regina
Carbonella, Justin	Grivois, Lorna	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
DiMauro, Nancy	Halpin, Myke	Westcott, Cara
DiPietro, Terri	Jacaruso, Jon	
Samantha Forbes	Jones, Alana	

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Review of August 13, 2015 minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept the August minutes.

#### Chair Report

As reported at the last RAC meeting Donna Grant has stepped down, Samantha Forbes has agreed to co-chair. A motion was made and seconded to accept Sam as the RAC co-chair.

#### SAC Update

##### Overview of 9/14/2015 retreat

Lorna reported attending the SAC retreat a couple of weeks ago. Regina who is a SAC co-chair discussed that the group looked at various reports from the region to look at common issues and concerns from families around service gaps. SAC committed to looking at concerns of families and they will then report back to the RAC's on those issues for the purpose of open communication.

They found that the SAC had deficiencies in their legislative responsibilities by wasting opportunities to share information with the Commissioner when she is at the SAC table.

Adolescent services, permanency, fatherhood, YAB communication and foster care were some of the agenda items discussed at the retreat. A communication structure from RAC to SAC is being formalized. The process and form is to be used to submit recommendations to and from the SAC was discussed.

It was decided that recommendations would not be made until the combined RAC/FAB meeting in November. Lorna will work to secure a venue for that meeting.

##### FAB Update

Myke indicated there was a FAB meeting on 09/12/15 where they discussed there are no detox programs in the state for youth, they are usually sent to a program in New York. The RAC continued discussion on the difficulties for families of kids detoxing at home, and why providers are not providing detox services. Terri asked if Value Options could provide some data on where Medicaid kids are going to detox. Alana indicated that they

would like a speaker to come to a RAC/RAB meeting in the future around drug/alcohol education.

The October FAB meeting is cancelled.

Allon suggested creating a means to communicate service gaps to the Integrated Service Systems group.

Regina discussed lack of support groups for adolescents.

Nancy DiMauro discussed Rushford struggling with their ACRA program (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach). The slots that the Department has funded are not being used.

There was discussion around kids not being developmentally ready to stop using their drug of choice and the lack of supports to help with this.

Regina discussed screens in ECC's being self-disclosure. Terri indicated that usually kids are pretty honest because they are aware their parents won't see the assessment. Lorna discussed bringing this situation up to the Behavioral Health Oversight Council.

Home based services for DCF youth was discussed as was MDFT and MST.

### **YAB Role and Planned Discussion of Youth Bill of Rights**

Allon asked if someone could identify a youth to attend the next meeting to have their input at the table to discuss the bill of rights which helps to give youth in foster care more normalcy in their life and to assist with looking at service gaps.

### **Voting Membership**

Allon indicated that 51% of the RAC must be parent representation. Discussion continued on how the voting process should look and to include FAB members as voting members, have the FAB suggest who those people should be. The FAB will drive the topics that RAC addresses.

There is representation at the FAB from the entire region. It was suggested that there be a quarterly RAC/FAB joint meeting. Lorna will look into Saturday November 14th, this is a potluck and includes YAB members. The joint meeting will take place in lieu of the November 5<sup>th</sup> RAC meeting. It was asked if Mary Painter could come to this meeting discuss substance abuse, Allon indicated that he would contact her.

Nancy suggested including safe futures to represent domestic violence at the table. Regina suggested DMHAS also join.

### **Submitted Topics & Roundtable Discussion**

#### **Med Cab and Affordable, reliable daycare**

Sam brought this issue to the table based on discussion at a SEMHSOC meeting. When clients are not picked up on time it makes them late to appointments and those appointments are sometimes cancelled by the provider. Med Cab will not allow siblings to ride with the parent and identified child. This is a huge barrier for some families without sibling daycare to get kids to medical appointments.

Sam asked if reliable daycare is an issue in the region and one of the issues is hours of operation, Care for Kids tends to lose paperwork and parents are having to submit paperwork over and over.

### **211 Lack of Response**

Discussed long waits and lack of support when you are not clear on what services are available.

### **Educational Surrogate Foster Parents/Advocates**

Allon discussed the bill that Martha Stone was involved with which is a pilot program for surrogate parents for students in region 3 that are in foster care. The principle idea is affording surrogate parents advocates for kids that have issues in school that won't involve special ed. Allon has asked his region for families that can benefit from this pilot. \$150,000 has been appropriated for this. Criteria is that the child is in foster care, is regular education, has academic, behavioral or attendance issues. They cannot have an IEP but can have a 504.

### **Voluntary Services**

It was suggested asking the FAB how much voluntary services being under DCF inhibit families from using them. Cara talked about Lorna asking years ago for voluntary services to be a different telephone number from the Careline. Nancy Gentes suggested that this be an issue that the RAC take up.

### **Housing**

Shelters are full especially for domestic violence cases. We should have Safe Futures at the RAC table. There was discussion about the lack of shelters for single dads with children.

Jon shared that in Norwich the domestic violence consultant Gina Mangano has been working with Safe Futures. They are not a clinical group and they use an educational model on insights to men's own domestic violence. This program was requested however it is not being utilized.

Recently Jon met on the FREE (Fostering Responsibility, Education and Employment) contract which focuses on juvenile justice staff which is a DCF only contract about youth working and transitioning back to communities when coming out of CJTS. Jon talked about how Habitat for Humanity worked with a group of these kids that was very successful in teaching them about giving back to their community.

### **Outposting**

Chris shared that Willimantic is starting to outpost at Windham hospital. They are coming up with expectations for out-posted workers so they are not working outside their scope and their duties are clearly defined. They will help with diverting referrals.

Nancy DiMauro suggested ending each RAC meeting with positive announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37.