

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2016

In Attendance:

Alexander, Kayla
Brenker, April
Calvert, Rick
DiMauro, Nancy
DiPietro, Terri
Fontaine, Katie
Forbes, Samantha
Gentes, Nancy

Grant, Donna
Grivois, Lorna
Halpin, Mike
Howroyd, Josh
Jacaruso, Jon
Kalisher, Allon
Kelly, Dina
Kyle, Lindsay

Moller, Regina
Reyes, Loida
Rose, Sean
Seagraves, Kelly
Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Stebbins, Christine
Taylor, Jillian
Westcott, Cara

Welcome and Introductions

Review of January Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept the January 2, 2016 minutes.

Legislative Report – Josh Howroyd

Josh handed out a legislative update and described his role as a lobbyist for the Department. The first four DCF Legislative Proposals on the handout are the initiatives that the department has submitted. Josh invited everyone to go to the DCF website where all of the bills are listed, status of the bills and reports are provided. He urged all to contact him (josh.howroyd@ct.gov) with any questions. Josh encouraged providers to engage in the legislative process and to communicate with the legislature.

Donna spoke of utilizing Facebook to provide testimony.

SAC Communication Plan – Review and Approve – Jon Jacaruso

Jon reviewed the "Region 3 Systems Table Communication Plan". This is to develop a system of enhanced communication between the local systems tables, the Regional Advisory Council, and the State Advisory Council to raise awareness of community concerns, strengthen the quality and accessibility of services, recognize and minimize any possible gaps in care and inform the development and implementation of programs and policies to best meet the needs of individual youth and families within their communities.

Jon will send the plan to the co-chairs of the various groups.

A motion was made and seconded today to approve this plan.

Sam invited all to submit any issues to her and she will bring this to the SAC meeting on Monday.

RAC FAB Fiduciary Request – Samantha Forbes

Sam asked for a volunteer to become the fiduciary for funds that are given to family members to attend RAC/FAB meetings to reimburse for gas and childcare.

It was suggested to see if there could be the ability to write checks as opposed to giving out gift cards but this language would need to be put into place by the SAC.

Roundtable Updates & Discussion

a. ISS – Nancy DiMauro

Nancy discussed how Region 3's ISS/MSS process is being looked at to create a meaningful process that will primarily support difficult children in our region. This would be children and families that are involved with multiple systems and repeatedly cycle through them. There is a pilot meeting being scheduled for the end of March. Families will always be invited and there will be a standing team, referrals will be accepted by providers and they can be DCF or non-DCF involved families.

Terri suggested asking families what specifically in IICAPS helped them and what were identified obstacles.

Donna stated that this process sounds very similar to MSS.

To begin, one family per meeting will attend. They are still figuring out who the standing team will be and how often the meetings will take place and where they will take place. Nancy is still in the process of writing all of this up.

It was suggested including a person from DSS. Allon indicated that they have already had some contact with them.

Jill discussed her being in the process of creating a document that lists all of the various meetings that take place.

b. DCF Strategic Plan Highlights – Allon Kalisher

Allon indicated that in April he and April have mapped out a plan to report to the Commissioner and her team. The next time the RAC meets there can be further discussion on what the Region has committed to.

Core commitments made are to do better on engaging families on the case planning process, case practice to be guided by permanency teaming, seeing families enough and high quality visitation. Highlights are continued commitment to racial justice work and improving partnerships in the community, helping adolescents succeed and communication support and wellness for staff.

c. CONNECT/Network of Care – Jill Taylor

They have had two meetings so far. Discussion has focused on infrastructure, goals and what they want out of the Network of Care. They talked about meetings that already exist becoming part of the network and having a fluid communication plan between all of the various groups. The next meeting is April 14, 2016, at the Cragin Library in Colchester at 10:00 am. Jill asked for co-chairs to reach out to her in an attempt to alleviate duplication of meetings.

d. ED Forum Recap – Samantha Forbes

Sam reported that in January the partnership in collaboration with DCF and CHA held a forum with all the ED's statewide to review data on frequent youth visitors to the ED with behavioral health issues. Frequent visitors are those who have had 4 or more visits in a 6 month period. Points made were educating school and parents about the role of the ED, what is an appropriate referral to the ED and what are the alternatives to the ED.

EMPS should strengthen their relationships with schools and the need for ED's to have better relationships with EMPS. Use ISS as a way to process kids that are going to ED's repeatedly and maybe have hospitals participate in the ISS meetings.

Cara mentioned that the SDE has a statute in place that requires all schools to have MOAs with the schools in their district- not sure how many have established.

Rick offered to provide trauma trainings.

Sam will send out a summary and next steps to this group.

YAB Update

Kayla provided a YAB update. She is going to the statewide YAB meeting today. They are discussing what they need from DCF when they age out, for example doing taxes. This meeting is in preparation for the meeting where each region has one youth attend a meeting with the Commissioner.

Rick discussed a model in New London called "CT Strong" which is funded for 5 years by the government with DMHAS as the lead to look at any and all creative ways to find 16-25 year olds who need assistance transitioning into adulthood.

SAC Communication Form Completion – what regional info should be presented at 3/7/16 SAC meeting?

Christine suggested having Kayla fill out the form to report back on the statewide YAB meeting to the SAC.

The other topics suggested to bring to the SAC are barriers for a fiduciary for the RAC/FAB gift cards, maybe have DCF disperse the funds directly, submit the abbreviated fiscal analysis that Donna did and indicate system barriers and CPT code for grandparents to do therapy without the kids in the room.

Cara announced that effective 3/1/16 EMPS has been enhanced. They now start at 6:00am to 10:00pm weekends and 1:00-7:00 on weekdays. A facility liaison will work directly with kids in ED's,

Donna announced Congressman Courtney's emergency legislation for 200 million dollars to hit at the community level for the opioid epidemic. He has introduced the legislation, Donna is asking for support on this.

Next RAC/FAB Meeting – April 9, 2016

Next RAC Meeting – May 5, 2016