

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2015

In Attendance:

Asinas, Michael	Grivois, Lorna	Reyes, Loida
Banton, Kym	Halpin, Mike	Roy, Leslie
Brenker, April	Jacaruso, Jon	Russo, Robin
Cortez-Rivera, Rosie	Jones, Alana	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
DiPietro, Terri	Kalisher, Allon	Serluca Thomas
Forbes, Sam	Lavallee, Andrew	Silva, David
Gardner, Chris	Martin, Bill	Stebbins, Christine
Geddis, Annie	Melchoir, Kathleen	Westcott, Cara
Gilbert, Yvette	Muniz, Fernando	Wigglesworth, Jeannie
Graham, Susan	Parkinson, Kyle	Zoback, Ronnie
Grant, Donna	Rein, Wendy	

Welcome and introductions

Lorna Grivois

DCF PowerPoint on fiscal investment

Fernando Muniz

Fernando reviewed his PowerPoint "DCF Service Array, Changes in Community-Based and Congregate Care Services". This was put together to give a year by year view of changes in the DCF budget. They will first frame a conversation with the plaintiffs of Juan F. who are concerned that the Department is not doing enough to provide services for families that have left congregate care settings.

Fernando talked about a statewide provider meeting next Wednesday where they will discuss what gaps exist in every region.

DRS has been a major contributor to diverting cases to community partner agencies. There has been a reduction in the size of the adolescent population in foster care and they are chipping away at permanency for this population as well. Currently there are under 4,000 children in placement in the state.

Fernando discussed cuts that OPM has made in the budget which is primarily programs that they do not identify as "direct services".

Bill asked about conversation around privatization, Fernando indicated that there has not been any talk at this time and he has not heard that there will be privatization.

Lorna asked if prevention and intervention programs are being targeted for cuts. Fernando indicated that he will look into this. Cuts are being made to less intense programs which usually ends up being prevention.

There was discussion about the value in the work to learn programs.

Wendy asked about cost of living increases for providers. This conversation has been had, COLA did not get integrated into the final budget.

Fernando indicated that he will send a list on the number of rescissions.

Review of January 8, 2015 minutes

A motion was made and accepted to approve the January 8, 2015 minutes.

Chair Report

CONNECT Update

Lorna Grivois

Lorna just attended the CONNECT leadership meeting. Susan Graham had discussed the Care Management Entity that will be housed at ValueOptions and is designed to have intensive care coordination and family peer specialists using the wrap model. There is going to be 6 regional network of care managers that will help coordinate continued services and collaboration. The structure also includes a Family and a Youth coordinator positions (through AFCAMP).

Another component is the Project Director who is housed at CHDI to manage all of the moving parts of all of this which are social marketing, network development, building the data dashboard, family engagement, a cultural and linguistic component plan and workforce development.

Cara asked how this will operationalize with the local System of Care. This will work via the 6 network managers from ValueOptions. Not all the answers are found yet and they are still working on this.

Allon discussed the relevance of the statewide provider meeting that Fernando mentioned, after the general meeting the regions will break out with their providers to discuss gaps in service. He encouraged people at this table to attend.

Susan indicated the CONNECT is a team process and they are trying to de-silo and reiterated that this is still being built and there are still unanswered questions.

Lorna invited all to attend the regional Network of Care meetings. They had medical homes come and discuss their program.

There was some discussion about duplicative meetings.

SAC Update

Donna Grant

Donna indicated that they have not met in months due to the weather; at their last meeting they discussed their structure and membership. They are looking to meet quarterly and move around the state. They would like to have the DCF Commissioner come to every other meeting and are looking to include high profile case reviews as part of the agenda. Their current chair needs to step down and they would like to move to having co-chairs. Regina Moller has volunteered as one of the chairs. Donna mentioned membership opportunities and if anyone knows of anyone interested to represent family, legal and child psychiatric slots.

DCF Update

Allon Kalisher

The active plan that is being provided today is the current Strategic Plan. The first formal review is being presented to the Commissioner on April 17, 2015.

Terry DiPietro – iCare

Terry provided a PowerPoint on iCare which is an acronym for Identifying Children and Responding Early.

They have developed a strategy that will reduce the number of youth between the ages of 6-14 at risk of entering either the juvenile justice system and or the most intensive level of mental health treatment due to their behavioral health issues and to address innovative ways of identifying, assessing and providing brief interventions to at risk youth.

They have partnered with Middlesex Hospitals Outpatient Behavioral Health, Middletown Public Schools and the Ministerial Alliance of Middletown. The core components of their systems approach is behavioral health screens, a school climate data team and the use of the OHIO Scales assessment. Their relationships approach consists of an in-school talking and learning center, providing a wraparound approach and focusing on building trust between the family, school and behavioral health provider.

They have linkages to many community resources which include:

- Adult Education
- Afterschool programs – Green Street, Parks and Recreation, tutoring
- Basic needs-food pantries, clothing, SNAP, utility bills, employment assistance
- Child Care Resources
- Church-based leadership programs
- Health Insurance
- Medical care/coordination with primary care providers
- Mental Health-outpatient counseling, IICAPS, psychological evaluations
- Therapeutic mentoring

They will use the OHIO Scales for outcome measures. This is an evidence-based instrument which measures outcomes for youth who receive mental health services.

Putnam Pilot

Leslie Roy and Annie Geddes

Leslie discussed the pilot history where in the beginning things were run more like silos and there was no cohesion with the police department. The project took a while to get going, it did not work smoothly in the beginning. It has changed from DCF being in the center to the family being in the center working with the Department, hospitals, clinics, schools, the police department and community providers.

They have split the region in half. Which goes in line with DCF, the community and families to work with each other. There are two intake and treatment workers in the north and the same in the south.

Leslie discussed the stakeholders which are, the school superintendent, the school based health clinic, Day Kimball hospital, TEEG, the town of Putnam Recreation Department, the Putnam Police Department, the JRB, Generations Health Clinic and DCF.

1263 in Putnam school 60% receiving free lunch, the number of disadvantaged families is high. Changed the amount of free and reduced meals. There were an immediate increase in attendance due to kids getting more food. All kids get all meals to not single out lower income children. Consistently have fallen short of statewide testing. These numbers are from two years ago.

Current out-posted social workers are intake social worker Tracy Johnson and treatment social worker Annie Geddis who just began in January and replaced a worker that was out-posted for about a year before Annie. The thought behind adding a treatment worker was for an easier transition to go from an investigator to a treatment worker, this would be much easier for the families to have this continuity.

Annie discussed her transition and indicated that the Putnam school has been very supportive. She is also attending meetings like JRB and the NEST which shares a lot of the kids. Annie along with the school has found this beneficial. She has an office in the middle school but services the whole school system.

Leslie discussed "what is different now from when they began with out-posting.

Ultimate goal is to receive less referrals to DCF and more to the community programs.

Killingly school will be the next to receive an out-posted worker, in April Joy Ware and intake social worker will begin out-posting there. They will begin to strategize with the Windham Community and surrounding towns.

New London County

Dave identified the out-posted intake workers in new London and discussed the various responsibilities of this staff. Dave discussed the amount of workers that were interviewed for these positions and needing those "certain" people to do this work in the community. The dividends have been great. Disc used what the out-posted workers have accomplished.

Tom discussed him being the Groton police department liaison. He acts as the go between for the school system and the police department, he also covers a huge caseload for the naval base where he consults monthly with them. He discussed the great relationship with the police department. Tom also chairs Groton Rocks which nominates 10-12 children that have gone above and beyond random acts of kindness. They are presented with appreciation awards and t-shirts and lunch. Sometimes parents are invited to the celebration to hear the reasons their children are nominated.

Yvette Gilbert is an intake worker who spoke highly about collaboration with the schools in addition to carrying a case load. Out-posted workers have different lens on need versus neglect.

She discussed a dance group of children from Uganda who will perform and then have lunch and integrate with the children at the school.

Next RAC Meeting May 7, 2015