

## Region 4 Area Advisory Council Meeting

October 15, 2013

Hartford DCF

250 Hamilton Street

Hartford, CT

Present: Milly Arciniegas, Deb Batsie, Sarah Becker, Terrence Blue, Liz Bryden, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Tim Carroll, Ann Denué, Alice Farrell, Hector Glynn, Tammy Harris-Wilson, Colinda Hunter, Tina Jefferson, Wayne Johnson, Winston Johnson, Beth Landolina, Chris Lau, Nick Lebron, Jamie Lehane, Lorna Little, Donna Maitland-Ward, Pat Manneggia, Emily Miliken, Alana Parkinson, Paula Plante, Josie Robles, Kathy Schiessl, Charlette Scott, Dyshawn Thames, Amanda Toni, Sabrina Trocchi, Milagros Vega, Beresford Wilson, Kelly Waterhouse, Mary Hryniewicz, Judi Orlando Maha, Jarquise Patterson

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Lunch was provided by DCF Region 4 at 12noon and the meeting commenced at 12:25pm.

Michael Williams gave the Welcome and introductions as Co-Chairs Regina Roundtree and Ivy Farinella could not attend the meeting. Mr. Williams announced that this would be his last meeting as the Region 4 Regional Administrator as he has accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner. He announced that Chris Lau will take his position as Regional Administrator. Mr. Williams explained that the state will have many changes in leadership and this is a time of transition. He stated that there are not too many changes in Region 4 but there will be more detailed information at the next meeting in November.

**Prevention Committee Report-** No one from this committee was prepared to give a report. (A report was received after the meeting and is attached.)

**Healthy Development Committee Report-**Lorna Little presented the goals of the committee that include 1. Education- Ensure that all children in care are in an educational setting 2. Mental health needs are proactively assessed and addressed in a timely manner 3. Identify medical and physical needs and assess on regular intervals. Ms. Little passed out a more detailed description of all of the goals and action steps (attached). The committee will be developing a portfolio to give to foster parents related to healthy development and resources. There will be a meeting between the DCF Academy, and Winston Johnson from Hartford Public Schools on October 28<sup>th</sup> to begin a Professional Development Collaborative with Hartford Schools. Chris Lau mentioned that the trauma screening tool is on hold and that staff are being trained now on trauma but the training on the actual tool will not happen until 2014. There are some staff in both offices who are part of the Learning Collaborative and are piloting the tool with their families. There was a question if the goals for the Committee are related to just committed children or all children served by DCF. The committee

responded that they would like it to be for all children served by DCF. The committee may need data from DCF in order to monitor and evaluate. There was a comment that the focus should be on kids not committed to prevent them from becoming committed. The committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 12noon at St. Agnes Home.

**Professional Development Committee-** Beth Landolina passed out self-reflective questions for supervisors, managers and staff related to each of the Cross Cutting themes that were developed by the committee and asked the RAC members to look it over and send feedback via email. Mr. Wilson asked if parents who are part of the RAC can give feedback on these questions and the answer was yes.

### **Regional Updates:**

Michael Williams discussed the Raise the Grade legislation where case plans must include achievement, discipline and attendance information for all children and this information must be included in permanency plans submitted to Juvenile Court. DCF is in the process of hiring a coordinator that will report to the Court on all children's education. It is a law that the schools have to give DCF this information. There will be a letter to the school requesting the information. Coordinators will work collaboratively with the school districts, educational consultants and surrogate parents and foster parents. Aggregate data could be looked at for themes by districts. There was a suggestion to use data from the PSDCRS reports submitted by providers. The question was asked if kids who are in subsidized guardianship will be looked at. Mr. Williams explained that the legislation is addressing kids in foster care because of the current data. Natalia Liriano suggested that her staff could create a toolkit for relatives for after the guardianship is finalized that includes resources. The question was asked if social workers know they can get into Power School to check a student's grades? Natalia Liriano announced the first annual Kin Care Conference is this Saturday in Hartford.

### **RAC Business**

Janier Caban-Hernandez and Wayne Johnson went over the explanation of terms for voting members and explained the voting process. Each person was given a ballot and was told to submit a ballot with 25 names. There will be 21 voting members and 4 alternates. DCF staff can submit a ballot but cannot be a voting member.

Ballots will be collected until Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>.  
The meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Landolina MSW  
QI Supervisor Region 4