

Region 4 Advisory Council Voting Members Meeting

April 19, 2016
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Deb Bastie, Sarah Becker, Tim Carroll, Alice Farrell, Wayne Johnson (DCF), Diane Kearney, Nick Lebron, Lorna Little, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF), Alana Parkinson, Malika Robledo (DCF), Josie Robles, Kathy Schiessl, Martha Stone, Maritza Velez (DCF)

Voting Members Absent: Ames, Jeremiah; Becker, Sarah ; Brown, Sophia; Davis, Carleen; Bryan Flint ;Glynn, Hector; Henry, Bernetta; Jacobs, Giselle; Jacobs, Corey; Trigilio, Linda; Wilson, Beresford

The DCF Region 4 RAC meeting was held at the Hartford DCF office from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. This meeting is for the voting membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The overview of the meeting was to follow up on education and legislative discussion, CQI team updates, membership and outreach update and to get a SAC update.

Minutes review

- There were no minutes from February due to storm cancelation

Follow Up from Last Meeting

Education

- Members thought there was much value in the Education presentation
- Martha followed up with Chris Leone
- 3 pieces that need more monitoring
 1. Pre-K for DCF children (what is the number of children not in Pre-K)
 2. Raise the Grade-piece about academic supports & progress of the DCF youth
 3. Education in DCF contracted facilities (CJR, Touch Stone each has a PRT(placement review team)
- Where can RAC be of help?

- What is the number of youth in Residential in Region IV?
- Is the QA team looking at access to Pre-K? We do not have a robust QA team, we only have 3 people for the Region
- How is Region IV handling supports & academic progress?
- These 3 areas are in need of a QA plan but we cannot add this to the QA teams plate right now
- Would RAC or a CQI team be willing to be the QA for this topic? Or maybe an ADHOC committee that can tackle this topic
- DCF has limited resources
- Diane Kearney is willing to be a co-chair of an ADHOC committee
- Part of the strategic plan should be to get a handle on this-we have more data to work with now
- Data from the state BOE on suspensions, expulsions and attendance
- It should be embedded in OM3 & OM15, need more resources for education
- Partnering with schools and foster parents trained to know what they need to do for their Foster children
- Next month we will present this ADHOC committee idea to the full RAC
- Ask for new members, build the committee then see what data they need

Legislation

- Presentation was given-10 pages of initiatives
- How many of these policies affect families?
- Are there items you would like to discuss?
- If there are any agenda items RAC wants to hear about before and during the legislative?
- RAC should be focused on legislation concerning education
- RAC received the link by email to all the legislative updates
- RAC to get legislative updates from one person who will meet with Josh on a regular basis
- Chris will send an email to see if someone is willing to do this
- Ask YAB for the Region-Jeanette White will bring this to Latosha to put on their agenda
- YAB's voice should be incorporated into the Strategic plan around education

DCF Updates

- Layoffs at CJTS are not impacting the Regions
- There is limited ability to bump in the Regions

- We have been working with our JJ staff to touch base with our kids at CJTS
- 8 youth in our Region are at CJTS-3 have active discharge plans
- We are making sure their needs are being met
- There are plans to close CJTS but they are still accepting youth
- Youth will go into a smaller setting within the community
- The commissioner said there will be no more layoffs at DCF
- Cuts to the budget are being dictated by the Governor
- Clerical cuts have really hurt the agency

CQI Team Updates

- RAC members have joined the CQI Teams
- Regional Administrator, Office Directors and Program Directors attend the CQI meetings too
- Kathy, Alana and Diane have joined and gave positive feedback
- Nick asked if the CQI teams are welcoming and listen to the RAC members?-RAC members answered yes-Kathy and Alana said they feel a part of the team and their input is well received
- Should there be a meeting before joining a team? Answer was no unless the RAC member would like one
- **Permanency CQI** team is doing case reviews on the MAP(Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Plan) meeting-this is a meeting with our legal team to plan for permanency for our children
- By doing these reviews, they can see if the case is following the legal direction
- A lot of work with coaches is being done to help direct staff for case planning
- **Children Safely at Home CQI** team is reviewing the outcomes for CR (consider removal) meetings to see how it is working
- Also looking at family arrangements and are they working out
- The team is also looking at a Foster Care disruption protocol
- Developing 5 critical question for RRG (Regional Resource Group) consults
- **Racial Justice CQI**- This team is doing World Café Style meetings-several people read a book "Every Day Bias" and the CQI team held a forum to discuss it
- This team developed a reference guide to help identify race, ethnicity and nationality
- The group grapples with the way our staff identifies race and ethnicity
- The team launched campaign TALL (Talk, act, listen, learn)with poster and pins given to staff
- They are conducting reviews to see if staff are talking with families about cultural practices
- If anyone feels like they need some outside training, let us know
- **Case Planning**- Team is focused on case planning and needs met

- They are developing new strategies and helped to conduct a case plan booster training
- They meet to review data and outlined several strategies
- This team is reviewing case from intake to ongoing services

SAC update-tabled

Next agenda items:

Motion to adjourn by Kathy Schiessl and 2nd by Alana Parkinson

The Region 4 RAC Voting membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall