

Region 4 Advisory Council Voting Members Meeting

October 21 2014
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Sarah Becker, Tim Carroll, Karon Dailey(DCF),Ivy Farinella, Alice Farrell, Bryan Flint, Hector Glynn, Shauna Goodwin, Maria Hernandez-Young (DCF), Tina Jefferson (DCF), Wayne Johnson (DCF), Nick Lebron, Beth Landolina (DCF), Chris Lau (DCF) Lorna Little, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF),Alna Parkinson, Malika Robledo (DCF), William Seals (DCF), Kathy Schiessl, Charlette Scott, Martha Stone, Becky Fournier (DCF), Rose Wieworka (DCF), Diane Kearney,

Voting Members Absent: Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Blue, Terrence; Wilson, Beresford;Johnson, Winton;Perez,Salina; Roundtree, Regina; Brown, Sophia;Bastie, Deb; Sanzo, Whitney

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 Members & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss DCF CQI Team and RAC subcommittee updates, the application for RAC funds, Legislative Proposal ideas, the Connect Grant and the RAC recommendations protocol.

DCF CQI Team/RAC Subcommittee

- Should these 2 teams be folded into one?
- Maybe just have some external people join the CQI teams

RAC (community partnership)

- Will focus on 3 areas
 1. Making recommendations on agenda
 2. Partnerships with the community-quarterly provider meetings
 3. Recommends changes to the ISS meetings- would like more members from DCF
- Do you need anything from DCF, like information or data
- 1st quarterly meeting is in November
- Set an agenda and Mailka Robledo and Pam Burney will attend

Permanency CQI

- Questions on data given
- Children transitioning from Congregate Care to the community
- Is there any data to validate the move
- CRT meetings-need data on this
- CQI team is heavily involved but has paused to see if CQI should spearhead this

Prevention Committee

- Struggled in the beginning-need more members
- Time spent talking about what is prevention and what do we focus on?
- What can we do for families in the community?
- How can we follow through with families for their basic
- Vernon Community Network (VCN) is trying to pilot a program
- Funding for Birth to 18 year olds
- VCN would like to connect with DCF to help with this pilot program
- No one from DCF on this committee
- Need 2 more members and some DCF involvement
- Manchester will add a member(head start person)-Jeanette will get information to Shauna
- Hartford thought maybe a FAR worker-Amanda Beane or another options is the Head Start person form Hartford-Rose Wieworka to connect Amanda with Shauna
- Beth will reach out to Wendy Kwalwasser-Prevention at DCF to see if she can assist this group

Healthy Development

- Very active, has goals and ideas
- Many DCF workers involved
- Spent a few meeting spinning our wheels but know have goals and new ideas
- Waiting to hear from the department on what areas they would like work done
- What is critical or most important to DCF?
- What does DCF want us to focus on?
- Committee was discussing Mental Health procedures and then found out it was already addressed at DCF
- Chris asked what would be helpful form RAC & DCF?
- Areas that DCF would like the committee to work on? What is priority?
- 1st have CO and management bring agenda items to RAC
- 2nd Have DCF representative on each sub committee
- Operational Strategies (can bring to RAC for feedback)
- Need plan in November
- We had an agenda for one RAC meeting the 10 Performance Issues that need to be addressed

- RAC needs to know what are the priorities
- July 1st of this year all children 18 months to 5 years need to be enrolled in pre-school
- Enrollment to ensure outcome is stronger for children
- Creating policy on this
- Make sure the group knows what the priorities are

Professional Development

- Came up with a plan
- Survey came out in June 2012 –Implementation of Practice Model
- Joined RAC and created a list of questions involving the Community of Practice
- We did a Racial Justice learning forum
- We have 2 more forums: Implementing Community Partners and Supervision. Leadership and Accountability
- We launched the supervision feedback tools
- We started with the SWS and are working on gathering the data and getting feedback
- We are meeting regularly on Monday or Tuesday
- This team needs more RAC members-will recruit at the next RAC meeting

Membership

- Meeting very sporadic
- Our membership worked on getting the RAC funding
- We need to update all the RAC members information
- Is the department being mindful of who they are putting on these committees and their caseloads
- We are here to make sure these members have the time to commit to these meetings

Communication Committee

- This committee disbanded
- After the CQI teams present let's see which committees can be combined

CQI Intake

- Looking at areas that need improvement
- Met 3 times and have 10 ideas: Mary will send list to Terry to distribute at the next meeting
- Visitation gap-improve so there is no gap in visitation
- Transfer process-intake to ongoing with no gap in service to families
- Received a report from Treena on Race & Disproportionality
- ACRI tool the team will be talking to ACR today about collaterals and any gaps in service
- Will be looking at communication with collateral contacts and documentation

Case Planning

- Goal of the committee is to track implementation of strategic interventions of case planning
- Quality supervision-we have a new supervision model thorough out the state
- Good conversations about cases and needs, assessing the needs and tools to help case planning, purposeful visits
- Every subcommittee is charged with bringing in Racial Justice and cultural aspects of the case
- SW awareness of cultural needs
- Last year we did enhanced case planning
- This year we extracted some parts of the training to provide training on the elements needed the most
- Tracking the 90 days plans and make sure we are engaging our families
- Case planning is tied into every RAC sub committee
- Maria thought having parents involved in this committee would be good
- This team is 3 years old and meets often

Children Entering Care

- We have finished revisions on Placement Resource Search (PRS) guidelines
- We looked at guidelines for staff when they are working on placement
- Guidelines are finished and awaiting approval
- Looking to present and implement
- We reviewed 16 removals-a set in March and a set in June-we are looking to see if Race and or Ethnicity were a factor in the removal-it did not appear to play a part in the removals
- Looked at SDM and if it is being done correctly-were there safety factors
- Were there any services available that would have prevented a removal
- Most of the cases reviewed were correct in removal and a lot ended with Family arrangements
- We are putting our data together and comparing it with children that were not removed
- Hope to have more information by December
- Ted Talk to be scheduled with Tina Jefferson
- Chris Lau has some ideas on teams that can merge
- Nick reminded they family members being involved in CQI is questionable
- The DCF CQI teams are now in a better place-do we have duplicate efforts, do we merge?

Permanency CQI

- Mail objective is to make sure we are meeting the Reunification goal
- Developed a reunification tool
- How do we utilize the information to meet the best outcomes for our families?
- Would like to know what areas are most important to the department?

- Barriers are timeliness of services and legal consults
- Review of reunification practice in the Region
- Supervision is key
- Looking at offering services to non-custodial parents
- Make sure we are providing adequate visitation to families and services to families
- Have been charged with Permanency Teaming model for roundtables
- Teaming model is for Roundtables for children with APPLA and Congregate Care
- Permanency Teaming model-policy developed and practice guide is ready to implement
- The model is from Casey
- We have contracts with My Peoples and Y-US to sit in on team meetings and go out and try to find families members for the children to connect with, visit with or find a home

Discussion

- Where do we want to go with the subcommittees and the CQI teams?
- Take time to think about it and we will discuss next month
- RAC was designed as an advisory board
- Maybe the subcommittees could be the advisory part over the CQI Teams
- Martha asked if any of the work includes the JJ population.
- Yes the Permanency CQI team does work with the JJ population
- Children Entering Care CQI could also work with the JJ population
- Tina does not think that CQI teams should tackle this area, we have our own JJ Team working on this population
- There is no CQI team but there is a JJ Team to speak about this work
- What is missing is the data part-maybe we can add that piece to CQI
- Martha wanted to know: The Legislative Program Review, Results Based Facilitation, Child Fatality Review, are any of their recommendations brought to the CQI teams?
- Nick suggested that we communicate with the groups already doing the work
- Find out what is already being worked on and bring that info here to the RAC
- Any DCF representative can bring the information back to RAC
- Collaboration with the RAC is the key
- CQI teams were developed to focus on the work and to implement these measures: 10 Performance Expectations
- There needs to be a CQI part of JJ work, not a different team(not involving Georgetown JJ Team)
- Options: Sub committees rather than merging can advise the CQI Teams
- Do we want RAC member to participate in the CQI Teams?
- Do subcommittee members hear presentations today that they would like to discuss how it relates to the subcommittee work
- Beth will get information about DCF membership o RAC subcommittee
- Anyone here from RAC for Professional Development?

- Chris does not want to hear that CQI teams are doing their own thing and that outside voices are not being brought in
- CQI teams should set their schedule and bring it to the RAC
- CQI teams to set an agenda and bring it to Terry

Legislative Proposal Ideas-tabled to next month

Connect Grant-tabled to next month

RAC Recommendations Protocol-Terry to send to all members and have them send feedback to Beth

The Region 4 RAC Voting member meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Submitted by,
Terry Hall