

Region 4 Advisory Council Full Membership Meeting

September 16, 2014
Hartford DCF Office
250 Hamilton Street
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Donna Aaronian, Deb Batsie, Tim Carroll, Alice Ferrell, Bryan Flinn, Tina Jefferson (DCF), Wayne Johnson (DCF), Winston Johnson, Beth Landolina (DCF), Chris Lau (DCF) Nick Lebron, Lorna Little, Donna Maitland-Ward (DCF), Latosha Johnson (DCF), Alna Parkinson, Malika Robledo (DCF), Kathy Schiessl, Charlette Scott, Martha Stone, Jeanette White, Diane Kearney, Zoe Stout, Ann Denué (DCF), Tammy Wilson-Harris (DCF), Stepheny Springer (DCF),

Voting Members Absent: Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Blue, Terrence; Wilson, Beresford; Farinella, Ivy; Perez, Salina; Roundtree, Regina; Becker, Sarah, Glynn, Hector; Brown, Sophia; 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 Full Membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal for RAC Support Funds, the Connect grant, the RAC retreat, Racial Justice, and to review a proposal.

- Proposal of \$1500 for engagement of families to come to RAC meetings
- \$405 for bus passes and gas cards for the families transportation costs
- \$295 to be able to provide refreshments at the Annual RAC meetings
- \$800 to be used for Wal-Mart & Stop & Shop cards for 20 families
- Chris and Alice will sign the proposal and send it in
- Summary of the SAC retreat in Middletown (attended by Chris, Alice, Regina and Lorna)
 - I. Panel gave presentations
 - II. Broke into small work groups
 - III. Three components; Psychologist, APRN and CCMC all spoke about what happens in their facilities
 - IV. Challenges that face the families & children
 - V. Feedback from all of the Region RAC
 - VI. SAC & RAC should have a connection-SAC is lacking members
 - VII. SAC is looking to fill seats-very strict on who join SAC, maybe they should change their policy on this-Chris will share that idea with them
 - VIII. If anyone would like to be considered or has any thoughts get them to Josh Howroyd
 - IX. The panel in the morning explained how the Mental Health providers viewed SAC

- X. Private practitioners are not getting the referrals, they are ready and willing to treat our children and their families
- XI. Summarized the "Plan for Children .org"
- XII. Christina went over the plan for pediatrician and schools, funding and insurance issues, communications, continuity, data sharing and customizing services
- XIII. Martha Stone offered feedback-biggest concern is some of the services are not the best practice any more
- XIV. At the end of the retreat questions were; what does the RAC need from DCF and what does DCF need from the RAC?
- XV. RAC from DCF needs to have a continuation of open communication around ideas and plans
- XVI. DCF from RAC recommendation for changes in providing feedback
- XVII. RAC from SAC needs structure and better understanding of the connection between RAC & SAC
- XVIII. Any RAC can put through a proposal but we want clarity on the role of SAC with RAC
- XIX. Perhaps co-chairs of SAC could rotate attending the RAC meetings
- XX. Bill Rivera did a presentation on "Unaccompanied Minors" and talked about Probate Court seeing the impact of this
- XXI. Will there be a summary of the retreat from SAC?

Professional Development

- Professional Development proposal submitted in June, changes were needed, July voting members asked for more changes and were then approved
- The proposal was submitted to DCF on 9/15 and Executive Team voted and approved this tool
- Will start using the tool with SWS completing for their supervisors in Hartford and Manchester sometime in mid October
- The tool will be on Sharepoint
- Thank you for work well done on this proposal-well balanced and strength based tool

Racial Justice

- Presentation given by Tina Jefferson-handout given
- Statewide Racial Justice workgroup-each Region has a liaison to integrate racial justice work into all areas of our work
- 2012 DCF anti racism statement issued, June 2013 racial justice cross cutting theme added, July 2013 Statewide Racial Justice Workgroup (SRJW) created, November 2013 SRJW sub committees created, January 2014 Joint SRJW Sr. administrators meeting and August 2014 Expanded Leadership Team

- In the regions: Awareness, Safe spaces, conversation and discussion, race s[pecific practice
- Data included in the presentation handout-working on a update to this data and the impact the work is having on the data
- Region 4 has to report out on operational strategies
- Region 4 has a Diversity Action Team but it needs to be reformed-this team can do part of the racial justice work but not all of it
- Some work around race , gay & lesbian and some work around refugee and immigration
- Chris took the lead to have 2 presentations for Executive Team and they completed 2 different exercises; "Walk of Privilege" and "Who AM I"
- Also offered the "Color of Justice" which was well received
- Had follow up discussions about how to get under the Disproportionality/Disparity in our Region
- All 4 CQI Teams are charged with doing Racial Justice work within their teams
- The intake team is working on adding cultural considerations into the protocol-how does your culture impact your family
- Discussion being held on how families identify themselves
- Alignment of DMC/JJ population, Regional Leadership, Role of RAC and what role can we all take to improve this work
- CQI Teams and why we moved this work to these teams-Each team is looking at practices and to see where Race does or does not play a role-
- Who comes in to care and who does not? Looking at substantiated date to see who we sub on and who we don't
- Each CQI Team to present where they are on their Racial Justice work- PM and co-leads are guiding the teams with regards to Racial Justice work
- One policy change-SDM tools-toll used to assess safety. One questions is how many referrals on this family, we are finding that urban/suburban are be reported differently
- Can RAC, families and provider be present at CQI Team meetings?
- CQI Teams-performance expectations-thinking that once these teams are up and running - how we get outside or RAC involved
- How can sub committees from the RAC get folded into the CQI teams
- DAT can use more involvement-parents and FAVOR, please reach out to Nick

Connect Grant

- Reached out to Tim Marshal for an update
- Nick attended the presentation from the Commissioner to Legislature
- After presentation the legislature did not talk about a lot of the issues, just the hot button issues were discussed
- 2 hour presentation and 1 hour was spent on children in the ER

- Middle income families are lacking in access to Behavioral Health services-nick has the report
- Connect - Blessing form Beresford Wilson-have a lead person to give updates
- We did get an extension until December then we will find out if we get the 2nd half of the grant
- Ideas on how the money should be spent-we need to question how the last money was spent
- CHDI is managing the contract for this grant

Next Steps

- October we would like to present the 2014 legislative summary and invite the Principal attorney to the meeting
- Sub committees to invite the co-chairs
- Protocol recommendations-Regina is revising -Chris will get this back
- November we would like to have a presentation on "Raise the Grade"
- The departments participation in magnet school applications-increasing the number of DCF children applying
- Prevention sub-committee-Shauna Goodwin would like to present

The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Submitted by,
Terry Hall