



**DCF Region 6 Central
Citizens' Review Panel- Regional Advisory Council
RAC**

**May 2, 2019
Minutes**

Meeting called to order by – Liz Flores at 5:39

Minutes reviewed and accepted without changes.

Updates

DCF – Natalia Liriano reported changes at DCF Central Office: Michael Williams has returned as Deputy Commissioner of Operations; Cindy Butterfield is Chief of Finance. Christine Lau is the Assistant Chief of Child Welfare over Regions 4 and 6.

The Systems Division is undergoing a mapping process under interim leader, Sergio Alvarez. Systems and Foster Care divisions currently polling providers and families about their respective areas (+ and areas for improvement). Providers still can give feedback to Natalia by next Tuesday (survey).

Network of Care- Cynthia Petronio-Vasquez & Nicole McKelvey-Walsh

REACH- Women's Recovery, Engagement, Access, Coaching, and Healing Program
CAPTA- Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act

Cynthia and Nicole reported on the Network of Care meeting, held earlier this week. It was a productive meeting. Nicole explained DCF CAPTA guidelines in CT, which require medical and behavioral health providers to develop a Plan of Safe Care (POSC) for pregnant women on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioids or other substances and to report only basic demographics on these women to DCF: zip code, race/ethnicity, substance abuse diagnosis (type) and existence of POSC. **No names are given to DCF on this report to protect client identity and remove stigma associated with drug use among pregnant women.** Pregnant women on MAT are only referred to DCF for investigation if there is abuse/ neglect risk to the baby (i.e. women on MAT using Opioids again, for example).

Biggest gap identified at the Network of Care Meeting is that Birthing Providers (Hospitals) are not getting notice of women on MAT until they are ready to give birth. They need more time to develop a POSC. THOCC Birthing Center nurse, Sarah Benham, spoke about this at CONNECT meeting. She needs to know MAT providers in area so that she can begin developing the POSC in early pregnancy. Beacon has developed an electronic guide of MAT providers to share with the group. Guide needs additions (early childhood programs and pediatricians). Discussion of connecting with 211 on this. Teresa Baylak is the contact at United Way.

Group discussed how to help get the word out to the medical community on the CAPTA requirements – Nicole will contact Mary Painter at Central Office to see if education/outreach is planned. Important groups to reach: CT Medical Society, CT Nursing Association, CT Hospital Association, DMHAS Nurse Doula program for Young Adults. Group discussed doing its own outreach to these groups to educate about CAPTA.



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DCF Region 6 re-established the SUMS Meeting – case review/care coordination of DCF cases involving parents with substance abuse issues with private providers. Meriden in the process of reestablishing SUMS.

Group also discussed the REACH Grant – Deb Borzellino of The Connection described the program; it's a home visiting program for pregnant and parenting women with addiction staffed by women in recovery. The Connection covers part of Region 6 and the Village covers Region 4.

Next Steps

- Beacon MAT/Treatment Provider Resource guide – make additions and disseminate to birthing hospitals and Early Childhood Programs – share via drop box?
- 211 Access to this Information
- Strategies to connect with OBGYNs, Pediatricians and Birthing Centers with MAT Providers – should we have a provider forum?

Events- Marie Mormile-Mehler

City of New Britain Narcan Training and Opioid Education Event – May 13th at New Britain Public Library, 1-3 pm.

YWCA Stand Against Racism – on May 21, 2019 – 5:30-9:00

Membership/Recruitment – Nydia Vasquez

Brochures need to be updated. Will have for next meeting

DD Gift Cards for new parents and family members coming to meeting.

Future Meeting Location- Marie Mormile-Mehler

Meeting moved to CMHA Building 233 Main – 1st Floor on June 6, 2019; on street parking. Group agreed that parking at Sczyzeny Garage for parents/youth will be validated by CMHA.

Dates – No meeting in July

August 1st

September 5th

Next Meeting – June 6, 2019 Presentation from CT Data Collaborative – Data Story