

RAC Region #: 6

Date: 3/3/2016

Contact Name & Email address to receive SAC response:
ecannata@wheelerclinic.org

Dates of RAC meetings since last report to the SAC: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, 2016

RAC/SAC Communication Form

Briefly describe your RAC meeting attendance and representation by stakeholders, families, youth and providers:

There continues to be strong commitment to strong representation from families, as evidenced by RAC members recruiting new families, with new families attending each of the meetings. This has been important due to the change in availability of some of the original family representatives who have been unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Providers and DCF continue to be well represented, and guests were invited to provide information specifically in relation to services available for transition age youth, one of the current workgroups for the RAC.

Major Themes from your RAC meetings since last report:

3 Workgroups have been set up as primary areas for RAC attention over the next 6 months:

- Membership
- Father Engagement
- 'Enhancing Transition Supports for Youth in Foster Care Aging Out of the System

After introductions and any relevant updates from DCF, FAVOR, SAC or other member, the RAC attendees have broken out into workgroups to develop objectives and deliverables over the next 6 months. Goal is to provide a report and set of recommendations to DCF (regionally and to the commissioner through the SAC), by June.

Membership workgroup is working on identifying stakeholders that are not represented at RAC and on continuously expanding participation of families in monthly RAC meetings so that the high level of family representation is maintained and refreshed as participants move on. Committee is working on producing a RAC brochure that can be distributed to explain the RAC and inviter community participation.

Father Engagement workgroup is looking at disparities in how fathers are included/not included and/or treated in DCF proceedings (compared to mothers) and in availability of supports/services for Dads trying to care for their children. Workgroup is planning to develop recommendations and specific strategies to enhance father participation with DCF and in maintaining active parenting role.

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Transition Age Youth Three areas of focus to provide recommendations to DCF:

- Develop informational resource for youth (and for providers more familiar with child-serving systems) about resources and supports that are available for young adults and how to access those supports/services
- Development of a peer mentoring system that will outreach to and support youth aging out of the DCF system
- Consideration of procedural modifications that could maintain a connection or facilitate reentry for youth who may sign themselves out of DCF before they are adequately connected to ongoing supports and resources

Resources/Support Needed from SAC

Please identify specifics: Could we obtain data about how many transition age youth get picked up by Young Adult Services? (How many referred? how many accepted/rejected? Any data about youth not initially referred to YAS because of successful closing before 18, but later it turns out that YAS were needed?

Request for an issue/concern/idea to be presented to The DCF Commissioner
Please identify specifics: n/a