

## Region 4 Advisory Council Meeting

March 18, 2014  
Hartford DCF Office  
250 Hamilton Street  
Hartford, CT

**Present:** Aaronian, Donna; Batsie, Deb; Becker, Sarah; Brown, Sophia; Bryden, Liz; Caban-Hernandez, Janier; Carroll, Tim; Denué, Ann (DCF); Farrell, Alice; Flint, Bryan; Glynn, Hector; Hands, Brent; Harris-Wilson, Tammy; Hunter, Colinda; Jefferson, Tina (DCF); Johnson, Wayne (DCF); Johnson, Winston; Landolina, Beth (DCF); Lawrence, Gregory (DCF); Little, Lorna; Marshall, Tim (DCF); Michalski, T.J.; Milliken, Emily; Murcingi, Esther; Orlando-Mahan, Judi; Parkinson, Alana; Roundtree, Regina; Schiessl, Kathy; Scott, Charlette (DCF); Thomas, Chantel (DCF); Velez, Maritza (DCF); White, Jeanette (DCF); Riener, Anne; Tocher, Karen;  
**Voting members absent:** Arciniegas, Milly, Blue, Terrence, Farinella, Ivy, Kearney, Diane, Lebron, Nick, Perez, Salina, Stone, Martha, Wilson, Beresford

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The DCF Region 4 RAC meeting was held from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM for the Full RAC membership.

### Overview of Meeting

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the three mental health initiatives that DCF is involved in. This discussion was followed by a question and answer period.

#### **PA 13-178**

July 1, 2013 DCF received a mandate to pull together stakeholders throughout the State of Connecticut and submit a written plan to the legislature on a fully integrated comprehensive network of care for children's behavioral health in Connecticut. DCF has partnered with the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) in this initiative.

There are 13 areas to concentrate on and address specifically in the plan. In those areas engage expert stakeholders for their feedback in juvenile justice, child welfare, substance abuse, crisis management and early intervention.

This process was broken down into three phases. 1.) Gather information about what has already been written about the system; 2.) Hold facilitated dialogues/listening sessions with youth and adolescents, parents and caregivers, professionals; 3.) four public forums are scheduled be held throughout the state. The website where all of this information can be accessed is [www.plan4children.org](http://www.plan4children.org).

#### **Three Branch Institute**

This initiative, led by the Commissioner of DCF, legislators and members of the judicial branch, applied for this technical assistance project. The purpose of this project is to improve child well-being across the state. Its focus and emphasis is on the child welfare population but it is not exclusive to that population. The 3 priorities Connecticut's chose to focus on are housing, permanency, and the behavioral health system for children and families.

### **CONNECT Grant**

This is a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). It's a one year planning grant that was awarded to DCF on 7/1/13 to develop an integrated comprehensive behavioral health network of care throughout the state of Connecticut.

- \$4M over the next 4 years; \$1M per year
- Two required components, coordinating center and evaluation
- Three primary activities; Family Engagement and Action Team, Integrated Network of Care Data Team, and social marketing and communication plan.
- Integrated systems to include behavioral health, child welfare, early childhood, substance abuse, juvenile justice and education.
- Provide assistance to any coalition to develop their own decision making/infrastructure.
- Provide technical assistance support on how other states have successfully integrated.

### **By-Laws and Meeting Structure**

- The finalized version of the RAC by-laws will be sent electronically to the members this week.
- The meeting schedule for the voting members and full members will be on a rotating basis, meeting every other month. The sub-committees should continue to meet.
- There will not be an Annual Meeting for the RAC until May 2015.

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