

DCF SAC Meeting Information - March 2, 2015

Memo to SAC from Patricia M. Lorensen on the Proposed Modifications to the SAC statute:

In an effort to assist the discussion on the proposed SAC legislation, I have put together a discussion sheet identifying the key issues in the possible changes. Please give some thought to whether you agree/disagree or possible comments on these possible changes.

1. Reduction of the number of gubernatorial appointed positions from 13 to 7.
2. Removal of some of the specifications in required membership categories i.e. CT licensed psychiatrist and child welfare attorney. There are seven positions for the community and child care professionals and as needs of the SAC change this offers flexibility. That said, we have greatly benefitted from our SAC psychiatrist and we have lost a valuable perspective by not having an appointed attorney in the recent past.
3. Increase from 6 to 12, the number of RAC representatives on the SAC and within that number include the two youths and a minimum of two parents of children served by DCF While this change increases the RAC influence on the SAC it also increases the RACs' responsibility in filling SAC membership positions.
4. The DCF Commissioner now has the choice to attend the SAC meeting or send a designee. This change follows from current practice.
5. Change the Chair and Vice/Co-Chair to two Co-Chairs. Two co-equal Co-Chairs offer more collegial leadership for the SAC rather than " just a fill in for the Chair " system currently in place. This means that either Co-Chair can call a meeting as well as a majority of SAC members.
6. Removes from the duties of the SAC its oversight of the Strategic Plan, which is no longer used by DCF and the plan has been replaced by Performance Expectations. The SAC duties on the oversight of the Performance Expectations remains the same.

Issues remaining for the SAC on its enabling legislation:

1. Silence on a process of identifying possible gubernatorial appointees and submitting names for approval. Does the DCF website offer the form?
2. Silence on how the SAC or DCF handles the selection process for the SAC on the income requirement for the majority (10) of SAC members. This requirement seems to be an effort to insure the independence of the SAC's advice.
3. Other recommendations for the SAC to consider to advise the Governor and DCF Commissioner on the SAC Appointment Process: Include in the appointment application form: 1. a request for past and current information information from the possible appointee on CT or other state professional licenses and effective dates; 2. a statement on the form indicating how the form's information is stored and its disposition after the appointment ends; and 3. any other information that would be appropriate for an appointee on childrens' issues.