

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2013 - 9:00am-12:00pm

In Attendance: Maria Allegro, Janice Bendall, Tim Bowles, April Brenker, Dianne Breton, Rick Calvert, Emily Clarke, Jennifer Croce, Sherry Filiatreault, Samantha Forbes, Skye Garofalo, Lorna Grivois, Donna Grant, Jeanine Griffin, Jon Jacaruso, Allon Kalisher, Linda Lukin, Bill Martin, Jennifer Nadeau, Kyle Parkinson, Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Ellen Ross, Laureen Sheehan, Liz Shulman, Greg Simpson, Christine Stebbins, John Suchocki, Cara Westcott, Ronni Zoback,

Welcome and Introductions

Alana Jones & Tim Bowles

Review of Minutes

Alana Jones

- Minutes were just recently approved by Allon and had not yet been disseminated for the RAC to review, will defer to the next meeting.

Chair announcements

Alana Jones & Tim Bowles

- Tim acknowledged and congratulated Lorna Grivois on her new position with FAVOR as a Family Systems Manager.
- ***Tim will step down as the RAC co-chair due to him being appointed to the State Legislature with an assignment to human services, environment and aging but will stay on as a "friend" of the RAC.***
- ***Alana nominated Donna Grant and Cara Wescott seconded, all were in favor.***
- Tim has introduced legislation to align the regions for DCF, DMHAS, DSS and DDS.

Family Advisory Board.

- Robin will send out the flyer to all.
- Alana and Lorna created this board to ensure that all forms of family are represented and are informed of the systems in place for the children of the state of Connecticut.
- Alana and Lorna will be responsible for communication between the FAB and the RAC.
- ***It was decided that the gas cards could be used for families to attend the FAB meetings and other various meetings related to RAC, AACs, and Systems of Care Collaboratives to obtain family presence.***

Gas Cards

- Lorna agreed to be the holder of the gas cards.
- Lorna will update the stipend form and send to Robin to disseminate to the group, Robin will have copies of the form at every RAC meeting.
- Any family wishing to request a card will be required to complete the stipend form and submit it to Lorna.

DCF Update

- ***The four decisions that were made at the 11/27/12 Regional Steering Team meeting:***
 - 1. Re-commitment to the Case Plan Framing Document for all staff***
 - 2. Case Plans will be used as the closing summary region wide.***
 - 3. Genograms will be completed on all cases transferring to ongoing services***

4. Office Directors will review decisions reached by the RST at staff meetings, management team meetings, supervisor's meetings and/or other office specific meetings to ensure that all staff are made aware.

- The Region 3 Committee Structure and diagram were discussed.
- Recommendations that are given to local QI groups should be brought to the RST.
- The working groups of the RAC provide practice changes to the RST. Providers and members of the community make up the workgroups.
- The Office Directors will bring decisions back to the various meetings to make sure that all staff gets new information and will also forward that same information to them electronically.
- Middletown just completed a pilot program of the Fatherhood program 24/7 and are looking to fund it to keep it going.
- Willimantic completed a Supervisory Coaching process last fall and are just beginning to do it again. This was very successful and staff is excited about it.

Presentation on Family Teaming Model (Norwich SWS Skye Garofalo)

- Skye provided a PowerPoint presentation on Child and Family Team Meetings.
- This model was created by Annie E. Casey.
- The purpose of the meeting is for a collaborative approach to our work that supports the Strengthening Families Practice Model, purposeful visitation, family assessment and the family team model of case planning and decision making.
- Include as many family members and providers involved with the child as possible.
- The facilitator's role is to provide an overview of the case with an emphasis on safety. The facilitator for Considered-Removal (CR-CFT) meetings in Norwich is Skye Garofolo, for Willimantic Denise Morrell and Socorro Cortijo for Middletown.
- Ground rules are set at the very beginning of each meeting.
- An average meeting lasts 60-90 minutes.
- The agency makes the final decision if consensus is not reached.
- The facilitator will document the outcome of the meeting and provide a copy to all participants at the conclusion of the meeting.
- CR-CFTM policy is in draft stages, two sessions of the CR Facilitation Training will be held, the first session will be January 14 through January 16 and the second session is January 28 through January 30.
- The implementation of CR meetings is to begin February 1, 2013.

Community and Workgroup Reports

Middletown

Lisa Sedlock-Reider

- Nothing to report.

Norwich

Kyle Parkinson

- Nothing to report.

Willimantic

Dianne Breton

- Working on consumer forums for the NEAC, Willimantic has established dates for 3 different forums in the spring to get a sense of how they are doing and to find out how people feel they are being treated by DCF.
- Making headway with out posting workers in schools and the police department.

Early Childhood Workgroup

Lisa Sedlock-Reider

- Lisa indicated that the workgroup is struggling and are trying to narrow their focus. She thinks that staff need to be better skilled at screening and child development when looking at cases with little kids.

Education/Middle Childhood

Donna Grant

- The workgroup has met a number of times and plan to focus on reduction of truancy and school suspension rates.

Adolescent Workgroup

Liz Shulman

- Working to prioritize what measures to start with that will determine who should be at the table. Would like to have smaller groups within the workgroup due to the 13? being too much to focus on as one group.

Regional Service Systems Workgroup

Jon Jacaruso/Laureen Sheehan

- The group is currently working on pre and post surveys on ice breakers.

SEMHSOC

Cara Westcott

- Reviewing the strategic plan and what the families think are priorities. At the statewide discussion tomorrow Cara plans to use the occasion to join with the other 25 collaboratives.

Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Workgroup Jon Jacaruso

- Jon went to a foster and adoptive support group meeting with Mike Schultz.
- The group is focusing on how to better educate schools and create positive relationships with them.

Next Steps

- RAC Workgroups will complete first draft of RBA template and present at the March RAC.