

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2013 - 9:00am-12:00pm

In Attendance: Kym Banton, Janice Bendall, Heather Bonitz-Moore, Sherry Filiatreault, Samantha Forbes, Chris Gardner, Skye Garofalo, Nancy Gentes, Donna Grant, Lorna Grivois, Josh Howroyd, Jon Jacaruso, Allon Kalisher, Dina Kelly, Andrew Lavallee, Cindy McPherson, Kyle Parkinson, Erin Saylor, Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Laureen Sheehan, Christine Stebbins, John Suchocki, Vinny Ward, Cara Westcott and Jon Zane

Welcome and Introductions Alana Jones & Donna Grant

Review of Minutes Alana Jones

11/01/13 and 01/03/13 minutes approved without change.

Chair Report

Nothing to report. Alana Jones & Donna Grant

SAC Update Donna Grant

Nothing to report.

DCF Update Allon Kalisher

Legislative Update Josh Howroyd

Josh Howroyd described the legislative response to the Newtown tragedy. This has been their primary focus and bill 1160 is about much more than just gun control. It also encompasses a comprehensive behavioral health reform, school safety and a program for pediatricians on behavioral health which is intended to provide a point of access to a consultation team. This should be up and running by January 1, 2014.

Another new bill creates a 20-member task force to study the provision of behavioral health services in Connecticut, with particular focus on providing such service to 16- to 25-year-olds. The task force must analyze and make recommendations in numerous areas. Tim Bowles is a co-chair of the task force and he is focused on bringing human services agency's to communities. Lorna asked that there be a family voice on the task force.

Cara will send the task force appointees list to robin who will e-mail it to the group.

Due to savings from congregate care numbers being lowered it was suggested that those dollars should be used for additional community services.

If anyone would like to contact Josh they can do so at josh.howroyd@ct.gov.

Dashboard Review

Dashboard handout referenced as this remains a central focus and is tied to region 3 workforce and program priorities. Dashboard is updated monthly on Region 3 website.

Region 3 "White Board" Discussion – Priorities and Opportunities for Partnership

Allon reviewed the "Region 3 Priorities - Focal Points for 2013" and the "Top Priorities for our Workforce" handouts. Focal points are shaped by agency mandates and by regional priorities. The RAC is a partner in developing regional priorities so it is expected that the work group templates will help the region in this regard.

Allon discussed his efforts to push for expansion of access to Care Coordination to families in need of service without the need for DCF involvement. Through DRS and Systems of Care, families have access to such services but require either a report to Careline (for Community Support for Families) or a child with a behavioral health diagnosis (for Care Coordination through Systems of Care). The Department has considered ways in which greater access to DCF services can be had without an active DCF case, and thus it seems worthwhile to explore an idea such as access to Care Coordination without a mental health diagnosis. This would promote prevention and early intervention rather than forcing families into worse circumstances. Kym Banton discussed the fit of Middlesex County's long practice of doing Service Reviews. She will send a fact sheet to be distributed to all. Allon invited a formal proposal including such no cost or low cost aspects from the Board on how to approach this. Donna offered to host a one time subgroup to accomplish this.

Intake Practice

Kyle Parkinson

Kyle convened an intake roundtable on February 6, 2013 with regional intake managers, legal folks and intake supervisors to touch upon topics as they relate to modern day intake practice. He gave an overview of intake practices in the region. Kyle indicated the possibility of updating the template letter that is sent on unsubstantiations to make it more client-friendly.

Permanency Planning

Jon Zane

Jon is an adolescent unit supervisor in the Norwich office. Jon hosted a think tank meeting including many region 3 staff focused on the region's practice surrounding "APPLA" (Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement) permanency goal designations. This meeting was a follow-up to several meetings and discussions on the topic since Allon Kalisher became Regional Administrator. As APPLA is used when there is no goal for legal permanency, the emphasis is meant to push harder to ensure that adolescents do not age out of foster care without permanent positive connections. The focus of the think tank was on developing a shared understanding of when it's appropriate to pursue an APPLA plan, and what aspects of planning must it include, with emphasis on identifying permanent connections. The team is developing a process to review, consult or approve APPLA goals for youth that is in concert with the demands of the work and timetables of the court, including a process for annual reviews. Jon provided a handout and discussed the role of the Adolescent Planning Team (APT). While the APT is a Norwich specific team, each office in the region will have similar processes. The goal of the team is "All adolescents aging out of care will have a planned living arrangement and permanent relationships that they can rely on after case closure." Jon is participating in pre APPLA consultations. He meets with the worker and supervisor prior to the case being submitted for APPLA. Most youth reviewed are between the ages of 12-17 with the majority being 14-15. TDM (Team

Decision Meeting) staff is part of the APT. They assist by developing a genogram and do the research to find all possible family members.

Community & Providers Update

Middletown

Lisa Sedlock-Reider

Nothing to report.

Norwich

Kyle Parkinson

More staff is out-posted in the schools. Liaisons are assigned to every single school that does not have an out-posted worker. An added challenge is the reduction of state cars which affects out-posting due to lack of transportation.

Staff is receptive about discussions to work a different schedule to allow extended hours: e.g. 5 days one week, 4 days the next with extended hours.

Norwich is working on transfer conferences and are making progress on child and family considered removal meetings and they are looking at non traditional ways to approach engagement.

Willimantic

Dianne Breton (not present)

Nothing to report.

SEMHSOC

Cara Westcott

- SEMHSOC met with LIST representatives from New London county and Kyle to create efficiency and collaborate. They are working on NAAC and SOC sharing resources and have a combined meeting time.
- Erin Sailor the chair of the NAAC is hosting vicarious trauma training on 5/14/13 at Child and Family Agency from 9:00-1:00, the trainer is from B.P. Learned.
- Child FIRST is expanding their home visiting program; the contract is in the works. Generations is doing their parent teacher program through the same funding.
- Local hospitals are supporting a hospital wide commitment to have their staff trained on In Darkness to Light and bring Triple P for patients to have access to people trained in the curriculum.
- Family Enrichment Services programs are switching over to Triple P.
- There was discussion on the lack of funding for training of Triple P given that training is proprietary and there are no local trainers to address staff turnover. DCF is working on a plan in partnership with DSS to try to resolve this.

Workgroup Reports and Presentations of Draft Templates

Note: Due to limited time, work groups offered brief reports about status with the plan that we will dedicate most of the next meeting to review work group RBA templates in depth.

Early Childhood Workgroup

Lisa Sedlock-Reider

The group has 3 goals, put together a comprehensive directory for the region on all the different services for early childhood, it will be user friendly and can be accessed on SharePoint. The second goal is a training of DCF staff on the different programs and the third goal is to look at organizing meetings with higher level program people to discuss problems in the systems around coordination and communication.

Education/Middle Childhood

Donna Grant

The group has attempted to fill out the RBA template. They will work to build significant relationships with schools to obtain data. The lack of good relationships is their biggest barrier.

ValueOptions

Samantha Forbes

On Tuesday June 11, 2013 from 9:00-2:00 ValueOptions is hosting their first peer conference, Peer Conn will demonstrate understanding of peer roles, skills and abilities, incorporate holistic recovery using 8 Dimensions of Wellness and Engage young adult recovery via appropriate use of technology. use flyer. The location is Central CT State University Alumni Hall, 1615 Stanley St., New Britain, CT.

Adolescent Workgroup

Chris Gardner

By doing the worksheet makes it clear where you need to go and who needs to be at the table, Chris has identified missing people at the table.

Donna Grant reported there is a RFI out for the JRB's due at the end of April. Allon noted the department is moving to standardize the practice of issuing RFIs before RFP's in order to maximize community input. Donna also shared that there is money available to each LIST to support direct youth services for children that come before the JRB. The amount for the Wincham LIST (supporting 4 JRBs) is \$10K.

Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Workgroup Jon Jacaruso

There is a need to address therapeutic foster care population. Core foster homes and kin currently are all set but TFC must be incorporated.

Family Advisory Board Update

Lorna Grivois

There are approximately 13-16 parents participating. They have completed their mission and vision. The next step is to integrate into the RAC process, develop an idea of where and how the FAB can assist in developing a plan and how to have their voice at the RAC. They will organize how they have accessed services without being in the system and describe issues that they encountered. They will look at gaps and barriers case by case and put together some testimonials describing situations where if services were received early on the child wouldn't have ended up in the hospital, the system etc.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2013 9:00 a.m., Colchester Town Hall

- ➡ RBA Work groups Template Review and discussion
- ➡ Review of recommendations made by ad-hoc Community Services workgroup (led by Donna Grant)