

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 1, 2014

In Attendance: Kym Banton, April Brenker, Chris Gardner, Nancy Gentes, Donna Grant, Lorna Grivois, Tara Hall, Ava Hart, Alana Jones, Allon Kalisher, Pam Kelley, John Lachack, Andrew Lavalley, Bill Martin, Regina Moller, Kyle Parkinson, Michael Patota, Loida Reyes, Sean Rose, Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Wendy Rein, Laureen Sheehan, Liz Shulman, Jeanne Wigglesworth and Ronni Zoback

Welcome and Introductions Co-Chairs

Review of Minutes Co-Chairs

The March 6, 2014 Minutes were not reviewed, deferred for the July 10, 2014 meeting.

Chair Report

Gas Card update Alana Jones

No update at this time.

Alana is stepping down as co-chair, Lorna Grivois was nominated and voted in as the new co-chair.

Family Advisory Board Lorna Grivois

The FAB did not meet in April due to school vacations, they will be meeting again next weekend.

SAC Update - Membership and June Retreat Donna Grant

The SAC met and viewed a presentation from Kristina Stevens on the CONCEPT grant which is a trauma informed system.

The foster care trauma toolkit will roll out in the fall for all foster families. There will be work with regional partner agencies to co-train families at pre-licensing that's heavily embedded with trauma.

Dr. Tracy did a presentation on Raise the Grade.

There will be a SAC retreat; RAC representation will be invited to this event. It will probably be hosted in Middletown, Donna will reach out to see who wants to attend. A date has not been selected yet.

Review of Future Agenda Items Donna Grant

Some of the topics that Allon and Donna discussed are education and how the group can advance that work, what is being done on the trauma front and a presentation on the color of justice by the Juvenile Justice Alliance.

Donna asked for other agenda ideas and Lorna would like to discuss this with the families at the FAB to see if they have items that they would like on the agenda.

Donna would like updates from the workgroups at the July RAC meeting on what action steps they have been engaged in.

DCF Update

Allon Kalisher and DCF Leads

Region 3 Operations Strategy update

A process has been created for the regions to update each other on the Commissioner's ten performance expectations for 2014. These are discussed monthly at the Senior Administrators meeting and quarterly with the managers. This is framed in a results based accountability format.

Allon reviewed the "2014 Program Report Card: CR-CFTM for Region 3".

Allon reviewed the Children in OOS Placement report. Region 3 currently has 3 children in out-of-state congregate care settings. Due to a significant amount of work done the number of children being placed out-of-state has decreased dramatically. There has also been a lot of work on reshaping programs to help with preventing sending kids out of state. They have been looking at family based programming. Foster care is essential to this process.

Pam Kelly described LEAN which is a way to take a heavily involved systems process and make it more manageable. They are using LEAN to get the foster care licensing process down from one year to 3-6 months. They have significantly reduced the amount of paperwork and have gone from 78 forms down to 14. One example was the background check process; it used to take several months to complete, however, using the LEAN process to dissect the process, they are now able to process a background check in 27 days. There were noted duplications of work between DCF and the state police.

It is key to be honest with families about the type of kids that need foster care placements, all families should be trained in therapeutic care. Lorna asked if there were any licensed foster care families as part of the LEAN restructuring committee. Bill Martin said his representative was a licensed foster care family.

The Commissioner's expectation is that the congregate care rate should be 10% or lower. Lorna asked about success rates of kids that were in congregate care and then returned to their communities. Laureen talked about the need for DCF and the community system to work together to ensure that there are services to support the families throughout the child's placement in care, noting the need for family engagement and treatment for the whole family.

Allon discussed the Quality Placement Initiative who is hosting a breakfast, Alana was asked to attend. The Department is looking to invest in quality placements, with foster families who can work with bio parents to improve the long term outcomes for children placed in care.

The Commissioner has inserted herself in the approval process of congregate care placements, this is only relative to offices where the congregate care rate is 15% or higher. If an office is under 15% they can use their own protocol.

There is a performance expectation on permanency teaming for older youth to reduce APPLA goals by 50% to a state wide standard of 13%.

Allon reviewed the hand-out on considered removals and how well we are doing with placing kids in kin placement.

Presentation on Region 3 Racial Justice Work Plan - Tara Hall & John Lachak

Jon and Tara are the leads for region 3. They provided a handout of their PowerPoint presentation reflecting the work of the statewide racial justice workgroup. This highlighted the racial disparity of kids in care. The challenges they noted were the difficulty of people in the system recognizing their own biases, and being open to 'courageous conversations'.

DCF is addressing racial inequities and becoming a learning organization. The data reflects an overrepresentation of kids of color in the system. Jon & Tara reviewed their hand-outs.

Tara discussed biases and a lack of understanding on how decisions are being made. We should begin to think about how to have this dialogue with staff. DCF is working to become more culturally competent in making foster placement matches.

The goal is to bring the work from the statewide group to the regions. Once this is done they will present first at the RST and then each office will implement the recommended action steps. The subcommittee should have the presentation done by the end of the month.

There was discussion on racial equity of DCF staff. The Commissioner is also looking at this data. There is difficulty in finding programs that speak the primary language of the children and families. There is a sub group around contracting services to look at grass roots or local organizations to do business differently.

Child Safety Outreach: Work with Region 3 hospitals; CT's PH Public Health Campaign

The recon tour has finished and they will reconvene hospital staff and DCF staff to discuss the work and dovetail into the public health campaign to discuss vulnerable issues such as safe sleep and shaken baby. Allon will provide updates ongoing

Open Discussion on PA 13-178 and Collaborative Reports:

Lorna reported that at the last steering committee meeting they started mapping out what is going on in the regions, a group at the SOC community of care collaborative started to look at what is a "network of care." They went through the wrap process and discussed what is the mission, goal and purpose. They are identifying strengths. Their second goal was to identify what the barriers are.

Kym spoke about having full time positions for one person in each area to help create the relationships for a successful network of care, Donna suggested the RAC draft a letter to the commissioner to ask for resources. A motion was made to create a letter listing all of the members of the RAC as supporters before May 20, 2014, a copy to all of the regions legislators will be sent as well.

NEST

Donna discussed the NEST, a three layered approach to community care in the Northeast. Level one is comprised of senior leadership at Day Kimball Hospital. Level two, a hospital committee called Champions of Children, is comprised of DKH staff from several departments who are primary access points for families seeking care. Level 3 is the NEST (Northeast Support Team) which is a collaborative of community providers serving the Northeast corner. The initial meeting for the collaborative is planned for late May. Discussions regarding the determination of a 'host' agency for the collaborative are underway.

Day Kimball wrote a grant to fund a grant writing certification course. Seats in this program were offered to agencies who will serve the NEST including CHR, United Services, UCFS, Generations, TEEG, Day Kimball, Woodstock Academy, NDDH, FAVOR and a parent who serves on the RAC FAB, Jessica Goodman.

Systems of Care – NEAC, SEMHSOC, Middletown SOC's

Greater Middletown

They have a signed MOA for the Right Response grant. The Superintendent of Schools and the Police chief along with others are working on a graduated response system to use police and SRO's as a last choice. They have funding for training.

Dr. Ross green will come to the first day of professional development in August focusing on collaborative problem-solving.

One of three towns in the state that was awarded the grant "Safe Schools, Healthy Students" is Middletown due to the collaborative infrastructure they have in place. Middletown public school submitted the grant. A coordinator has been hired to do an extensive environmental scan and needs assessment for all Middletown schools.

SEMSOC

A formal survey has been done on people's opinion of networking. SEMHSOC have struggled with getting people to the table.

Sam Forbes is facilitating a kick off meeting at Windham Hospital for a 'Community Care Team'. Terri DiPietro from Middletown will present the model developed by Middlesex Hospital. Day Kimball will have staff in attendance as they consider this team approach to patient care and emergency services.

NE SOC – Communities Raising Children

The Northeast System of Care has coordinated their meeting day with the LIST. The LIST meets 8:30-9:30 then the System of Care meets 10:00-11:00. They are rotating locations every other

month. United Services is the new Coordinator of the region's list. WRCC chose not to pursue this contract.

LISTS / JRBS

Nancy Gentes announced MaDonna Place is working with the town of Griswold to assist in securing a grant through OPM that will provide programming to deal with absenteeism in kindergarten.

****Next RAC Meeting – July 10, 2014 AHM Youth Services Building**

(NOTE 2nd THURSDAY in an effort to accommodate any holiday plans for the 4th of July)