

## Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2013 - 9:00am-12:00pm

**In Attendance:** April Brenker, Rick Calvert, Rick Calvert, Justin Carbonella, Samantha Forbes, Chris Gardner, Nancy Gentes, Ann Grabowski, Lorna Grivois, Donna Grant, Jon Jacaruso, Alana Jones, Allon Kalisher, Eileen, Lader, Andrew Lavallee, Charles Larkie, Anne, McIntyre-Lahner, Jennifer Nadeau, Kyle Parkinson, Lisa Sedlock-Reider, Liz Shulman, Christine Stebbins, John Suchocki, Vincent Ward and Cara Westcott

### Welcome and Introductions

Alana Jones & Donna Grant

Jonathan Walters a reporter from Governing Magazine was introduced.

### Review of Minutes

Alana Jones

04/04/12 minutes approved without change.

### RAC Membership

Co-Chairs

Donna asked the group if there were any holes in membership. Allon mentioned the importance of juvenile justice participation. It was suggested that there also be a YSB presence.

Donna suggested that the agenda be more focused and ensure that, depending on the topic, affected community partners also be invited. Alana suggested having an evening meeting occasionally to be able to include parents. It was suggested that parents be paid to attend this meeting. Allon suggested addressing this issue at the SAC.

We have only used 9 gas cards to date, 21 are left.

### SAC Update

Donna Grant

Donna is our designee to the SAC, Alana will attend as a guest. The next SAC meeting is an all day training that the regional administrators will attend. It was requested that three additional members of the RAC also attend this meeting.

### Funding Opportunities

Donna Grant

Donna discussed grant announcements she asked for a process for DCF to notify this group of these opportunities. Not all grants come to fruition so it is hard to know which ones to pursue. Allon suggested that notices of grant opportunities be put on the website for everyone to see. Grant dollars are lost as people don't always know about them.

### RAC Members meeting to discuss Community Programming needs and funding with Representative Flexer

Donna Grant

The legislative branch and executive branch need to work together to build community capacity with dollars saved by keeping kids in the community and out of residential care. A group of 10-12 RAC members met with Representative Mea Flexer regarding this issue. She was candid about OPM's view about the surplus Board and Care dollars being a "surplus". The group responded that those dollars need to be re-invested into increasing community capacity to support children with acute needs who are remaining in community settings.

Donna said Representative Flexer had a willingness to meet with other agencies around funding and silos. Representative Flexer would be interested in hosting a meeting with multiple agencies.

Lorna announced that in the southeast, youth connected to SEMHSOC did a toiletry drive and they collected about 900 toiletry items and split them among DMHAS and DCF.

Liz said Project Reach program for homeless teenagers has funding to provide services for juvenile justice involved kids. The program is statewide. Liz said that she would provide contact information.

Cara advised the group that 70% of the Federal Mental Health Block grant dollars continue to be allotted for adults. The group discussed the disparity. There are quarterly meetings on the block grant that CBHAC members attend, and members continue to address the 70%/30% split. With more acutely, mental ill children remaining in community, these dollars need to be looked as a resource.

There is funding available through SAMSA targeting kids ages 12-24. The Commissioners met and decided that DCF would be the lead. Commissioner Rehmer is very supportive.

Connecticut is only one of five states that have two separate mental health systems for adults and children

Cara asked for further discussion around changes in grant funding and third party reimbursement. Allon offered to bring in a DCF fiscal representative to a future meeting to discuss this further.

### **Workgroup Reports and Presentation of Draft Templates**

#### **Family Advisory Board**

Lorna

The FAB met a month ago and their next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup>. They have approximately 14 various family members. At the last meeting they had 9 children that came with family members, this was a big piece of the success of the meeting was to have childcare that was funded through FAVOR.

Their vision and mission are done. They will continue to get family voices at RAC meetings.

Allon asked for an update on the FAB at every RAC meeting. Through discussions at the FAB they are starting to discover gaps and struggles with how to obtain services.

#### **Systems Workgroup**

Jon

Lorna has been doing meet and greets connect agencies and families in the region, while inviting communities to partner with DCF. The last one will be today at 4:00 at The Plainfield Town Hall, 8 Community Ave., Plainfield, CT

Jon filled everyone in on Dianne being out and shared that he is covering for the Willimantic office.

Jon went over the systems strategic plan that he created which is in draft form. He discussed struggles with region 3 geographically, the lack of transportation, contracted, credentialed and other services .

### **Foster Care Workgroup**

Jon gave information on Icebreakers and Considered Removal Meetings.

Jon provided an update on what his workgroup has framed out.

Allon discussed the regional fiscal position.

Allon would like to share the below website with the group, "Building Adult Capacities to Improve Child Outcomes: A Theory of Change":

[http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/multimedia/videos/theory\\_of\\_change/](http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/multimedia/videos/theory_of_change/)

### **Early Childhood Workgroup**

Lisa Sedlock-Reider

3 goals resource directory, will look at format today. Second goal is to look at training of staff on programs and then try to get higher level people involved in communication on barriers and what they should be. struggling with how and where to measure outcomes.

Allon offered any needed help in putting things in the rba format.

### **Education Workgroup**

Donna Grant

The RBA template has been completed, Donna did not bring it today but she will e-mail it to the group.

The group is working on partnering with schools to determine how this impacts student success. They are looking at outcomes that are student specific and they will identify two school districts that will pilot this. They are trying to include school officials in the group but it is difficult to do during a normal work day. Some evaluative measures they will consider are the reduction in mental health referrals, behaviors, suspensions, expulsions and school discipline referrals. This data will help determine whether or not there is a benefit of enhanced partnership. The overall goal is to increase partnership

### **Adolescent Workgroup**

Chris Gardner

The group has completed the report card and will work on how to measure the data they need. Their goal is that every youth 13-23 will be prepared for adult life and have a successful transition, they will be provided with skills, supports and their needs and determine what services are needed to help build and support, job preparation and vocational training.

Ann offered to do a RBA training for the group, and do some turn the curve exercises to help with the group develop strategies to reach the goals in their work plans.

JRI update – Mike Morrill

JRI has a SAMHSA grant trauma care within the foster system in ct. Actively looking for people to jump on board with this effort, biggest struggle are foster families with kids who have significant trauma and cannot meet their needs. If anyone is interested see Mike.

UCFS was awarded the FBR program. This will serve region 3 parents who have children ages birth to 36 months, there are 12 slots serve up to 24 families annually. This is an intensive program model developed out of Yale and Johns Hopkins. There was discussion on the difficulty around not adding any more slots, but being require to add Middletown families to the program.

Cara announced that Child First is booming. Cohort 2 which is Child First northeast is fully staffed and running. Cohort 3 is two additional teams for Windham, Putnam, Plainfield and Killingly is currently going through training. They are in the process at signing a lease at the Mills in Willimantic.

Middletown is having a Community Fair on May 22, 2013 at Middlesex Community College.  
Willimantic is holding a Provider Fair on May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Willimantic DCF office.