

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2017

In Attendance:

Banton, Kym	Jacaruso, Jon	Russo, Robin
DiPietro, Terri	Kalisher, Allon	Sedlock-Reider, Lisa
Forbes, Samantha	Parkinson, Kyle	Stebbins, Christine
Gardner, Chris	Rein, Wendy	Stevens, Kristina
Grivois, Lorna	Reyes, Loida	
Hooker, Jinette	Rose, Sean	

Welcome and Introductions

Review of January Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept the September 1, 2016 minutes.

DCF 2017 Performance Expectations (Strategic Plan Objectives) Review – Allon

a. Region 3 Strategic Plan

Allon provided a compressed version of the 2017 Strategic Plan. The Primary Strategies are:

- I. To improve Capacity and Competency of the Workforce in Intake
- II. To improve Supervision of Intake
- III. To improve QA of Intake
- IV. To improve Capacity and Competency of the Workforce I Ongoing Services
- V. To improve supervision of Ongoing Services
- VI. To improve QA of Ongoing Services

Allon mentioned upcoming work with Jen Agosti around racial justice, Middlesex Community for Children will be holding a three day racial equity training beginning on Friday January 13, 2017.

More work will be done around how to use flex dollars.

There was discussion around staffing issues in the region and the difficulties of non-profits getting social workers.

Adolescent Connections and Means Survey Results – Chris Gardner and Christine Stebbins

Chris reviewed the Connections and Means Survey conducted in 2015-2016. Before instituting this survey there wasn't data available to determine what means children had prior to and after leaving DCF care. This survey was created specific to region 3 to find out how connected kids were and what were their means.

The survey was created pulling information from various surveys around the country. From there they worked on consent forms with the DCF legal department and the institutional review board.

This survey was intended to be given six months prior to a youth leaving care and then again six months after leaving care.

Christine reviewed some of the findings from their data and provided the following summary:

86% of adolescents have at least one reliable individual to contact for emergencies
89% have a constant contact with at least one person in their life
29% of adolescents report strongest relationship with birth mother
37% of adolescents have limited networks/relations with individuals outside of DCF
24% of adolescents have adequate support and connections for short term care, but not strong enough for long term
92% do not know how to access medical or mental health care
Over 80% do not know how to access public transportation or public assistance
86% have a driver's license
68% have never been employed

Ultimately adolescents report they have the necessary connections to thrive as adults, but they do not have the means to thrive independently.

Conversation was held about the importance for youth and connections, their ability to problem solve and critical thinking skills.

There will be some changes made to the survey and they will start administering again hopefully by the end of the month.

Region 3 Summit Debrief – Jon Jacaruso

The summit took place on November 10, 2016 with the goal to start a conversation around the design, scale, and effectiveness of our services system. They also looked at who was being served by race. This was a high level look focused on feedback not to draw conclusions on current adequacy of the service system but to guide future development.

The target audience was all Region 3 contracted providers, two DCF central office leads and numerous Region 3 DCF staff.

The data presented was contract utilization, treatment goals met, key performance measures and race data. All data was pulled from PIE State Fiscal Year 2016.

They held group discussions where participants were asked to split into the following affinity groups according to outcome areas:

1. Keeping Children Safe With Families
2. Preparing Adolescents for Success
3. Meeting Kid's Needs (Juan F.)

Each group evaluated service system adequacy and then reported out.

Clinical and Community Consultation and Support – Kristina Stevens

Kristina provided a handout titled Clinical and Community Consultation and Support Division Performance Expectations: November 2016.

The 2016 CCCSD Operational Strategies are:

1. Exit from Juan F. Consent Decree: CCCSD will contribute towards achieving PE1 in partnership with the other Central office Divisions, Regional Offices and Facilities, with an emphasis on aligning the service delivery system to meet the multiple needs of children/youth and families through purchased services and interagency agreements.
2. Ensure that children reside safely with families whenever possible: Identification and Development of innovative and/or evidence based practice approaches to meet the needs of children/youth and families.
3. Achieve Racial Justice across DCF: Reduce disparities for children served by child welfare and behavioral health services
4. Prepare children and adolescents in care for success: CCCSD will contribute towards achieving PEA4, in partnership with other Central Office Divisions, Regional Offices and Facilities, with an emphasis on the identification and development of innovative practice approaches to meet the needs of children/youth and families
5. Prepare and support eh workforce to meet the needs of children and families: Develop and maintain a work environment that includes enhanced communication that is office and division specific, supports increased statewide sharing and promotes professional development and wellness.

RAC 2017 Goals

The next agenda will be dedicated to establishing 2017 goals. We will determine relevance of RAC to Network of Care; entertain a proposal to establish the RAC as the Network of Care. We will review input on what problems exist and how the RAC should play a role.

RJ, for example - as a working group, or to pass along information