

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2014 - 9:00am-12:00pm

In Attendance: April Brenker, Justin Carbonella, Jessica Goodman, Mia DiMarco, Terri DiPietro, Samantha Forbes, Christopher Gardner, Nancy Gentes, Lorna Grivois, Donna Grant, Jon Jacaruso, Alana Jones, Allon Kalisher, Drew Lavalley, Bill Martin, Regina Moller, Jamie Palko, Michael Patota, Michelle Peterson, Sean Rose, Ellen Ross, Laureen Sheehan, Beth Slezak, Christine Stebbins, Cara Westcott,

Welcome and Introductions

Alana Jones & Donna Grant

Donna will send a survey to the group to connect agency, systems and organizations. Please identify all agency's that you represent or work for.

Review of Minutes

Alana Jones

January 9, 2014 Minutes accepted without change.

Chair Report

Gas Card Report

Alana reported that there are 2 gas cards left. There has not been a SAC meeting since September, additional cards will be requested at the next meeting.

Family Advisory Board

- The RAC posed the question to the FAB "A parent caregiver what do you believe is the most effective way to have your voice heard?". The question was posted on survey monkey so parents could answer via computer. Some of the responses reflected that it is valuable to hear voices with experience; presentations with real life stories are effective a real life video of a child with mental health issues would also be affective. The panel of foster parents telling their stories was well received. It was suggested that Face Book could be utilized and the possibility of having a quarterly evening meeting with DCF was discussed.
- Jon and Bob McKeagney are attending the RAC FAB meeting this Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:30-1:30 at The Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., Colchester, CT.
- Lorna asked what the next steps would be. Donna asked Lorna to bring the question back to SEMHSOC, "Where are the parent-identified service gaps?"
- Lorna spoke about issues with discharge planning, Sam responded that due to short lengths of stay, good planning is not always possible.
- Responses to the questions will be given to Yale and they will create data. This information will be shared with the RAC and collaboratives.
- Jon stated that one of the big issues for families is when they are in need of help they don't know where to turn or who to contact.
- Kym suggested utilizing their Service Review Team of the Greater Middlesex system of care. This is where an individual (for example a provider or someone from education) acts as a "sponsor" to a family with service needs. The sponsor provides the facilitator with a brief synopsis of the family's situation. The facilitator then invites relevant others to the meeting where they will

brainstorm and make recommendations. This process is for both DCF involved families and those that are not involved with the department. Anyone involved with the child can participate. Anyone can refer the parent or they can self-refer. Typically they review cases once a month. There is no case management; they simply facilitate this informal process. If it is determined that care coordination is warranted the referral is made right there at the meeting.

- Lorna spoke about the importance of knowing and participating in other agency meetings like DMHAS and DSS.
- Allon spoke about the importance of having the right voting members at the RAC table, for example currently there is not educational representation.
- Christine Stebbins spoke about the importance of having a contact to refer schools to when they call about different difficulties children and families are having.
- Concerns regarding 211 were raised in regard to ease of navigating the service system for families. It was suggested that 211 be reviewed to assess for the possibility of having one number to help families find services.
- RAC membership was discussed - Recommendations of representation on the RAC were; guidance departments, councils of government, CHA, resource officers in the schools, law enforcement, DMHAS certified recovery support specialists, CSSD, DMHS, DPH, STE, OEC, mental health, DV, DDS, local grass root groups and senior resources.
- Donna reported on further development of the NEST (Northeast Support Team), a local community partnership of service providers and Day Kimball Hospital. The NEST is planning to invite community partners to the discussion of a local service delivery system by late spring. They will be offering an opportunity for all partners to work together on resource development through improving grant writing skills. Invitations to this will be forthcoming.

Connect Update

Lorna said that finalizing a logic model that will be part of the proposal sent to the feds. Her steering team has asked for a script to be able to talk about it. They are asking families and systems of care to sign letters of support.

Cara asked why we keep asking the same questions that we already know the answer to, we know what services are missing.

Allon has been asked to sit on a workgroup for public act 13-178 and he will share information obtained there with the RAC.

The next connect steering committee Meeting is March 14 at 2:00 at VO. Lorna will get the information on where in the building they will be meeting and forward to everyone.

SAC Update

Meeting was cancelled due to weather, no update at this time.

DCF Update

- Allon spoke about a shortage in DCF staffing which is being felt across the state. This is currently a major focus. The Department is hiring 37 durational social workers statewide.

- The Commissioner's leadership team is consistently reviewing how to move dollars to keep up with demands, for example the money saved in the dramatic decrease of kids not being sent to out of state residential care are being reviewed for use in providing other services to kids in other levels of in-state care.
- Leadership is looking closely at work with the differential response and the appropriateness of some of the decisions made. All 72 hours responses will move out of central office and decision making will go to the area offices. This may affect staffing. The area offices will be able to better assess once they meet the family in person.

Region 3 2014 Operations Strategy

Region 3's outlines the Commissioner's ten performance expectations for 2014, this has been reviewed and accepted; Allon provided a brief review of the document with the group and touched on each performance expectation.

Region 3 Hospital Listening Tour

Region 3 has been partnering with the medical community since the death of a child in the Windham community to better identify kids in emergency rooms that present with trauma. They are discussing how to screen adequately, detect and report and how to build a framework for best practices. This is primarily being led by Carl Schissel from CHIME and Andy Asnes who is a child abuse specialist from Yale. They are trying to include intake managers and nurses in these meetings. Meetings have been held at Windham and Day Kimball Hospital. Meetings are being scheduled for Middlesex Hospital, Backus Hospital and Laurence and Memorial Hospital.

A recommendation from the meeting at Day Kimball was to place an out-posted worker in the OBGYN units in the hospitals to develop a stronger relationship between DCF and community hospitals serving families and children.

There were no workgroup or provider updates.