



DCF Region 6 Central Citizens' Review Panel- Regional Advisory Council RAC

April 4, 2019
Minutes

RAC Charge

To advise the DCF on the development and delivery of DCF regional services

Meeting called to order at 5:40pm by Liz Flores, RAC Tri-Chair

- **Welcome and Introductions** were held.
- **Approval of Minutes** *distributed at end of meeting* Marie Mormile-Mehler asked the group to review the March minutes. Corrections were made to spelling of names -Liz Flores and Mayor Erin Stewart.

DCF Updates

- Natalia Liriano indicated that Christine Lau, the newly appointed Assistant Chief of Child Welfare will oversee the combined region of Hartford/New Britain/Meriden and may join us at the May meeting.
- **DCF Reorganization** – Regional Child Welfare Chiefs (3) report to Tina Jefferson, Chief of Child Welfare.
- **Other DCF functions** – like Quality Assurance are reporting to Central Office vs. Regional Office.
- **Surveys and focus groups** are being held to seek input on strengths and areas for improvement in each function.
- **Enhanced Service Coordinator** – Regions 5 and 6 is in place to determine family needs and how to best meet those needs with available services.
- RACs encouraged to continue their work as usual.

Task Force – Updates

- **Opioids** – NORA.COM is info about an app that explains how to use Naloxone for opiate overdose response; <https://egov.ct.gov/norasaves/#/HomePage>
- **Project HOPE** – New Britain Initiative to connect addicts to treatment when police respond to overdoses. Article in Hartford Courant: <http://www.courant.com/community/hc-news-new-britain-project-hope-20190305-wbgl43l5kjhgfhjhnxeamgpeyy-story.html>
- **Family and Community Group** – Wheeler runs a group for families of people addicted to opioids; the next round of recovery coaches funded through the DMHAS State Opioid Response Grant will be to support families. Need to destigmatize drug addiction and promote mental health checkups.
- **Opioid Response Grid** –
 - **Marie Mormile** distributed grid and thanked everyone who supplied info.
 - **Cynthia Petronio-Vasquez** provided an info sheet with links to area task Opioid Response Task forces.
 - **Recovery Support Specialist**- Newington/Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Health District has hired their own to do outreach and connection to treatment for addicted individuals through DMHAS State Opioid Response funds.
 - Support for family and community a growing need.
 - **May 13th Opioid Awareness event**- Marie announced, this includes Naloxone Training, at New Britain Public Library **from 1-3 pm**. Everyone is welcomed.

- **DCF Citizen Review Panel RAC – Welcome Letter**



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The group reviewed and approved the welcome letters to parents initially coming to RAC and the one which will be inserted into the welcome packet.

- **Future Meeting Location**

Marie discussed CMHA 233 Main Street site as a possible meeting site beginning in June. Parents and youth would get validated parking. Providers would pay their own way. ***Discussion tabled to next meeting***

Resource Needs

CONNECT Meeting: Annie Petitti, Network of Care Manager, announced the next meeting will focus on opioids issues.

Communication: Biggest issue is communication around what services are available – 211 is the best resource but it is only as good as information that goes in. Updating information is a challenge.

The COVE Summer Camp Program: A 3 day camp for children who have experienced **the loss of a parent to addiction (June)**; information will be emailed out to the group.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Next Meeting: May 2nd