



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

February 7, 2019
Minutes

RAC Charge: To advise the DCF on the development and delivery of DCF Regional Services

Meeting called to order by at 5:45pm by Elisabeth Cannata, RAC Tri-Chair

Administrative Business

A. By Law Revision – Vote to Accept Changes Proposed Last Meeting

The group reviewed the Citizen Review Panel-Regional Advisory Council By Laws.

A question about including juvenile justice in the representation on the RAC since DCF no longer manages juvenile justice. *Yes, juvenile justice should continue to be represented on the RAC as it impacts youth.*

By-Laws approved as presented with revisions introduced from last meeting.

We will be introducing a welcome packet to new RAC very soon.

B. Nominations for Provider Chair

Natalia Liriano announced that nominations for provider Tri-Chair would be voted on at next meeting. The deadline for provider Tri-Chair nominations is today. Tina Jefferson indicated that Deb Borzellino, who is a candidate, was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness but will be here for the next meeting.

Natalia asked for other nominations from floor. No nominations were received. Thus, the ballot will be sent out to the entire RAC with a request for absentee ballots and a member vote on March 7.

Task Force Updates

A. Opioid Addiction

Cynthia Vasquez of Beacon Health indicated there are 4 task forces in Region and will be at the next meeting to speak about these. If anyone knows of any additional task forces, contact Natalia.

Marie Mormile –Mehler of CMHA reviewed the Goals and Objectives of the City of New Britain's Opioid Task Force. It is just getting started but the initial focus is on education and data. Marie to keep group updated. If anyone is interested in participating, contact the Mayor's Office.

Nicole Mckelvey-Walsh Of DCF spoke about the SUMS meeting which involves providers around the table. Project of Safe Family Recovery Project is currently getting started. Focus on supporting families struggling with opioid addiction. Housing is a huge piece of the problem.

Elisabeth Cannata of Wheeler Clinic spoke about the Family First Model that provides housing to families reunifying with kids. This is a good model to support parents in recovery. Treatment needs to be home based vs. institutional.

Mary McAllister of the community asked about child custody issues when parental opioid issues come up. What are DCF policies around this?



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Elisabeth Cannata of Wheeler Clinic spoke about newer treatment models, such as Building Stronger Families, which support children staying at home with parent in recovery; if relapse occurs, the model allows for an alternative caregiver.

Similar models include Family Based Recovery (in home Substance Abuse Treatment for parents with children 0-3) and the Safe FR – model – support to family focus on SA around everyone.

B. Article Review

Liz Flores reviewed data from an article on child deaths from opioids – US National Trends in Pediatric Deaths from Prescription and Illicit Opioids, 1999-2016 – Opioid related poisoning deaths have substantially increased among children ages 0-4 and adolescents ages 15-19.

Group discussed keeping medications safe in the home and away from children (lock boxes) as it may be related to parents' use of MAT drugs-methadone and buprenorphine.

Financial Report

Elisabeth Cannata reviewed the budget request for the Central CRP/DCF RAC Region 6- We are requesting \$4,603 for this year's operations with a carryover of \$750 in money from last year. Budget has meals for RAC meetings, gift cards for family and youth participants and translation costs for welcome packet.

Someone asked about translating materials into Arabic, as there is a growing Arabic population in New Britain. Natalia will explore and get a quote for interpreters and translation. Miscellaneous funds can be used for this.

Dave Thompkins of Klingberg made a **motion to pass the budget**, which was second by **Jessica Raymond** of Family and Children's Aide. All were in favor. No abstentions. Budget approved

Community Announcements

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.