

## Child Poverty and Prevention Council Meeting

*Tuesday, November 19, 2013  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Legislative Office Building Room 2A  
Hartford, Connecticut*

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|------|---|------------|
| I.   | Welcome and Introductions               | 10:00 a.m. |
| II.  | Council Background                      | 10:15 a.m. |
| III. | State Agency Prevention Report          | 10:30 a.m. |
| IV.  | Council Progress Report                 | 11:00 a.m. |
| V.   | Council Focus for 2014: TANF Investment | 11:30 a.m. |
| VI.  | Next Steps                              | 11:55 a.m. |
| VII. | Adjournment                             | 12:00 p.m. |

## Child Poverty and Prevention Council Meeting Summary

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**Members Present:** Anne Foley (Chair), Ram Aberasturia (DOL), Gregg Cogswell (Senate Republicans), Renee Coleman-Mitchell (DPH), Bernadette Conway (Judicial Branch), John Frassinelli (SDE), Gregory Gray (Board of Regents for Higher Education), Mary Ann Handley (Former State Senator), Dennis King (DOT), Carol Meredith (DMHAS), Rod O'Connor (DDS), Raymond Singleton (DSS), Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez (DCF), Faith VosWinkel (OCA), Elaine Zimmerman (COC), and Lezlye Zupkus (House Republicans).

**Members Absent:** Lindy Gold (DECD), Tanya Hughes (CHRO), Mary Mushinsky (House Democrats), and Monica Rinaldi (DOC).

Agenda Item	Action Taken
Welcome and Introductions	<p>The chair, Anne Foley, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introduced the following new members: Ram Aberasturia from DOL replacing Mark Polzella; Bernadette Conway from Judicial replacing Carol Wolven; John Frassinelli from SDE replacing Harriet Feldlaufer; Gregory Gray from the Board of Regents for Higher Education replacing Robert Kennedy; Raymond Singleton from DSS replacing Claudette Beaulieu; and Representative Lezlye Zupkus from House Republican Office replacing Representative Lile Gibbons. Other Council members introduced themselves.</p> <p>Members discussed adding new members to the Council. Elaine Zimmerman's moved to add the Office of Early Childhood, and the Departments of Housing and Agriculture.</p>

	<p>The motion was seconded by Renee Coleman-Mitchell. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote. A legislative proposal will be prepared to make the necessary statutory changes.</p>
<p>Council Background</p>	<p>The chair provided background information on the Council. Major points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council was established in 2004 with the charge of recommending strategies to reduce child poverty by 50%</li> <li>• In 2005, the Council developed 67 recommendations to reduce child poverty</li> <li>• Due to the merging of the State Agency Prevention Council with the Child Poverty Council 27 prevention goals were added</li> <li>• In 2007, the Council worked with a panel of nationally recognized experts on poverty to refine its recommendations. They developed 12 priority recommendations for Council action</li> <li>• The Council contracted with the Urban Institute to develop an economic model to determine which of the 12 priority recommendations would have the greatest impact on child poverty</li> <li>• The findings of the economic model identified child care subsidies, attainment of associate degrees and increased enrollment in federally funded programs as the recommended categories that were likely to reduce child poverty</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council worked with community advocates to develop short-term low cost strategies to implement the Council's recommendations including: Earned Income Tax Credit, Post Secondary Education, Increase Connecticut Minimum Wage, Promote Youth Employment, and Expand Rental Assistance Programs.</li> </ul>
State Agency Prevention Report	<p>DCF, DDS, SDE, DOL, DMHAS, DPH, DSS, the Judicial Branch and OPM briefly discussed their primary prevention programs included in the State Agency Prevention Report. After discussion, state agencies agreed to forward any revisions to Council staff.</p>
Council Progress Report	<p>The chair reviewed the 2013 Child Poverty and Prevention Report. After a brief discussion the following changes were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insert on page 8 of the report information regarding the implementation by the Commission on Children of Section 10 of Public Act 10-133</li> <li>Consider including child poverty data of suburban areas in Connecticut in this report or next year's report.</li> <li>Change chart on page 26 (2012 Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity) to a bar chart</li> <li>Add information on every child reading by grade 3 under the Implementation of the Plan and State Actions in Conformity section of the report on page 30</li> <li>Include information on evidence-</li> </ul>

	<p>based programs from the state agency prevention report on page 37 of the report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the state agency prevention summary on page 33-37 to clarify the year prevention services were provided</li> </ul> <p>Dennis King's moved to submit the 2013 Progress Report the Appropriations, Children, Education, Human Services and Public Health Committees. The motion was seconded by Elaine Zimmerman. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.</p>
<p>Council Focus for 2014: TANF Investment</p>	<p>The chair asked Raymond Singleton (DSS) and Ram Aberasturia (DOL) to provide a brief overview of the proposed TANF Investment Initiative and the involvement of the Council. It is proposed that the Council will review the federal and related state program components that have evolved since the TANF Block Grant was instituted in Connecticut and determine if Connecticut is meeting the goals of the TANF Block grant and, more specifically, the goals of Connecticut's Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) and Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) programs. Through this analysis, the Council may consider new service delivery programs, models and or individual outcomes.</p> <p>DSS and DOL will take the lead on this initiative and will be in contact with members of the Council.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.</p>