

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

October 30, 2020
Virtual Meeting
1 to 3 p.m.

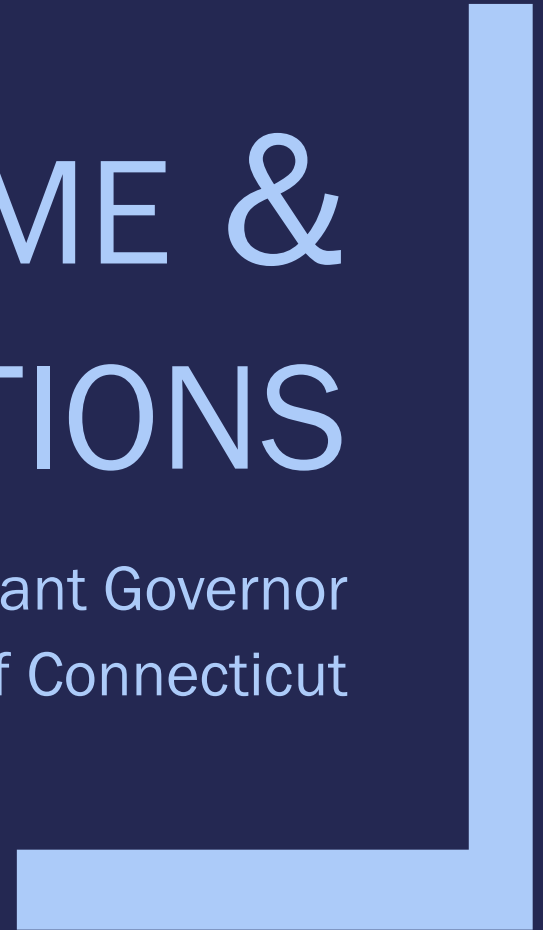


Pre-meeting Considerations

- Livestreaming on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/sDmr7xHj6xY>
- Mute unless speaking.
- Chat will be monitored for questions.
- Do not run livestreaming in the background during the meeting as it will cause interference.
- Let us know if you would like to share your screen for a presentation or visual.
- Any questions or points of clarification?
- *Meeting will begin broadcasting.* Countdown to begin meeting: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor
State of Connecticut



Member Agencies

Roll Call – Kari Sullivan, State Department of Education

- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
- Department of Administrative Services
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Economic and Community Development
- Department of Housing
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Social Services
- Judicial Branch
- Office of Early Childhood
- Office of Policy and Management
- State Department of Education

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz
Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut
- **Agencies' Response to AGTF Master Plan**
 - *Poverty*
 - *Hunger and Food Insecurity*
 - *Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention*
- **Wrap-up and Next Steps**
- **Next Meeting – December 10, 2020, 1 to 3 p.m.**
- **Adjournment**

AGENCIES' RESPONSE TO THE AGTF MASTER PLAN

Review of Agency Responses



Poverty

Children will live with their families in economic stability.

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
Ensure income tax-based assistance for workers, including Connecticut's existing refundable state earned income tax credit to supplement low-wage earnings of parents.	DSS	
For families with incomes of less than 50 percent of the state median, provide child-care subsidies. This will increase employment as well as reduce family expenses.	OPM OEC DSS	
Expand rental assistance, structured in ways to increase poor families' income and their incentives to work.	OPM DSS	

Poverty (continued)

Children will live with their families in economic stability.

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
Bolster two generational approaches to poverty reduction by assuring that all parents have a high school degree. Study obstacles and promote all avenues and efficiencies to meet this goal.	SDE	
Increase participation to 85 percent in safety-net programs like SNAP (food stamps), LIHEAP, WIC, subsidized housing, and Medicaid.	DSS	
Promote co-parenting of both mother and father when possible, regardless of marital status.		

Poverty (continued)

Children will live with their families in economic stability.

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
Help fathers pay child-support awards by bolstering job training and employment for those fathers who are not paying, due to lack of skills, employment and/or employability.	DSS	
Reassess TANF policy to avoid abrupt income cliffs and bolster authentic opportunities for job training and education. Consider expanding the 21 month TANF time limitation to support training for sustainable employment.	DSS OPM	
Enroll more youth in programs shown to reduce teen births.	SDE DPH	
Adopt programs that help young men complete high school and enter the workforce.	SDE	

Hunger and Food Insecurity

Children will be food secure and fueled to learn.

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
Schools will ensure that all students receive the nutrition required to be active learners from the opening bell of the day.	SDE	
Schools will incorporate the most appropriate school breakfast delivery options given their unique characteristics for optimizing student participation levels.	SDE	
Extended Day programs will employ the federally reimbursable snacks/meal programs needed to make the extra time on task productive.	SDE	

*DPH provided response to overall results statement.

Hunger and Food Insecurity (continued)

Children will be food secure and fueled to learn.

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
Schools will actively assist in the marketing of the Summer Meals Programs in their communities. This effort will receive support and outreach by local and state officials promoting the benefits for children.	SDE	
Schools will assist families of students participating in free or reduced price meals to apply for SNAP benefits through the Department of Social Services.	DSS SDE	

Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention

All children will be emotionally stable, resilient and capable of self-regulation.

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
<p>Expand access to high quality mental health care through school settings using: School-Based Health (SBHC) which have been shown to improve school climate, reduce the stigma of mental illness, and boost academic outcomes among students who utilize their services. SBHCs are known to reduce Medicaid costs associated with emergency room use and hospitalization.</p>	<p>DPH SDE</p>	
<p>Expand access to high quality mental health care through school settings using: Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a school-wide model for choosing and integrating research-based methods to provide the best academic and behavioral outcomes for all students. PBIS uses a three-tiered model to put in place strategies to prevent academic and behavioral difficulties for all students, including those at risk of developing problems or with high levels of need.</p>	<p>SDE</p>	

Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention

All children will be emotionally stable, resilient and capable of self-regulation.

(continued)

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
<p>Expand access to high quality mental health care through school settings using: Community-based Wraparound Initiatives. Initiatives such as Community Schools, CommPACT Schools, and Coordinated School Health (CSH) systems designed to incorporate quality wraparound services into the school setting whereby individualized plans are developed that incorporate community services and informal supports.</p>	<p>SDE</p>	

Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention

All children will be emotionally stable, resilient and capable of self-regulation.

(continued)

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
<p>Train and build the capacity of school mental health staff. School psychologists, counselors, social workers, guidance staff, special education teachers, nurses and support staff work closely with children in school settings who have mental health needs. One example is the statewide effort of CHDI in collaboration with the State Department of Education to train school nurses and support staff in identifying, understanding and referring children who may be suffering from traumatic stress reactions.</p>	<p>SDE</p>	

Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention

All children will be emotionally stable, resilient and capable of self-regulation.

(continued)

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
<p>Link School and Community Resources. Many schools across Connecticut have formal and informal relationships with community-based mental health providers including EMPS Crisis Intervention Service teams to provide services in schools, community-based settings and homes. These linkages are at times formalized with a Memoranda of Understanding and also rely on relationships between school staff and local mental health provider organizations.</p>	<p>SDE</p>	

Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention

All children will be emotionally stable, resilient and capable of self-regulation.

(continued)

Policy Recommendation	Responding Agencies	Notes
<p>Help youth receive mental health treatment rather than correctional assignments, when the problem is lack of mental health intervention. The Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) helps schools revise disciplinary policies and practices to divert youth from in-school arrest and other exclusionary discipline (e.g., out-of-school suspension, expulsion) and connect them to community mental health services.</p>	<p>SDE</p>	

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Next meeting date is Thursday, December 20, 2020, 1-3 p.m.
- Anticipated topics
- Meeting follow-up, as may be applicable