

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP  
Hartford

**Draft Minutes of Meeting**  
(Subject to Revision)  
January 5, 2017

**Call to Order**

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. The meeting was held in Conference Room 307A of the State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

Member agencies  
represented by:

Michael Carone, Legislative and Regulations Analyst, Department of Social Services  
Melody A. Currey, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services  
Evonne Klein, Commissioner, Department of Housing  
Bonnie Koba, Arts in Education Program Manager and Director of Higher Order Thinking (HOT)  
Schools, Department of Economic and Community Development  
Christopher Leone, Superintendent of Schools, Unified School District #2, Department of  
Children and Families  
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

Others:

Maggie Adair, Office of Children and Families  
John Frassinelli, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Linda Goodman, Acting Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood  
Roland Harmon, The Governor's Prevention Partnership  
Denise Marois, The Governor's Prevention Partnership  
Jaquita Monroe, Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division  
Kari Sullivan, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Iris White, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut  
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

**II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2016**

Minutes from both meetings approved unanimously.

**III. The Governor's Prevention Partnership, *Mentoring Strategies to Reduce Chronic Absence***

Roland Harmon, Senior Director  
Denise Marois, Coordinator of School-Based Initiatives

Mr. Roland and Ms. Marois provided an overview of The Governor's Prevention Partnerships (GPP) mentoring initiatives aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism in Hartford. The presentation included an overview of the GPP's partners, its role and a snapshot of four specific initiatives happening in Hartford. These included: 1) Mentoring and Juvenile Justice Youth; 2) Hartford

Community Partnerships; 3) EdCorpsCT at Waverly-Simpson Elementary School; and 4) Success Mentors.

**IV. All Students in School and Engaged! *Reducing Chronic Absenteeism***

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer  
Connecticut State Department of Education

Ms. Russell-Tucker provided a presentation on current chronic absence efforts and outcomes. Some highlights from the presentation showed the:

- Inclusion of chronic absenteeism as a component of the State Board of Education’s recent five-year comprehensive plan, *Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students*;
- Participation in September’s Attendance Awareness Month “Call to Action” for superintendents by 28 Connecticut superintendents in 2016 as compared to 6 in 2015;
- Demonstration of the landscape of chronic absence in Connecticut – overall chronic absence rate in 2015-16 was 9.6 percent as compared to 11.5 percent in 2012-13;
- Overview of Connecticut’s new data and accountability resources including EdSight and the Next Generation Accountability System; and
- Review of policy, legislation, the statewide infrastructure and the six high-impact strategies shown to be effective in creating a cross-sector effort to reducing chronic absence, national recognition and next steps.

**V. Member Roundtable**

A roundtable discussion was not held.

**VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 9 a.m. Location to be determined.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.