

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
October 30, 2020

Call to Order

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. This was a virtual meeting broadcasted live via CT-N and YouTube.

Member agencies represented by:

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

Doug Casey, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology (CCET), representing Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Vannessa Dorantes, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Dr. Mario Garcia, Public Health Improvement Manager Department of Public Health (DPH)

Dr. Jane Gates, Provost and Senior Vice President, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

Shante Hanks, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Housing (DOH)

Patricia Nunez, Program Manager, Connecticut Justice Branch

Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe, General Counsel, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner, CSDE

Holly Williams, Fiscal and Program Policy Section Director, Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Michael Williams, Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Guests: Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

Kari Sullivan Custer, Education Consultant, CSDE

John H. Dillon, IV-D Director, Office of Child Support Services, DSS

Matt Folan, Superintendent of Schools, Unified School District #2, DCF

John Frassinelli, Bureau Chief, CSDE

Peter B. Hadler, Director of Program Oversight & Grant Administration, DSS

I. Welcome and Introductions

Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. She opened with comments on the current state of events, work to date by member agencies on the review of the Achievement Gap Task Force (AGTF) Master Plan, and the importance of the work ahead. Kari Sullivan, CSDE, conducted a roll call of member agencies in attendance.

Lieutenant Governor reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives set forth.

II. Agencies' Response to Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan

- a. **Poverty** – *Children will live with their families in economic stability.*
Lt. Governor Bysiewicz facilitated a discussion reviewing each of the policy recommendations for the Poverty result statement, the status of agency responses and dialogue across member agencies. Highlights include:
 - Fatherhood Initiative – multiple agencies are connected the Fatherhood Initiative including DCF, OEC, DPH, CSDE, DOH, and DSS
 - Digital Literacy – DOH will follow-up with CSDE and DAS
- b. **Hunger and Food Insecurity** – Children will be food secure and fueled to learn. Commissioner Miguel Cardona, CSDE, with Charlene Russell-Tucker and John Frassinelli, facilitated a discussion reviewing each of the policy recommendations for the Hunger and Food Insecurity result statement, the status of agency responses and dialogue across member agencies. Highlights include:
 - Cross-agency collaboration exists in many of the policy recommendations including: ensuring all students receive the nutrition they need to be active learners; connecting families to SNAP; and data sharing agreements that coordinate services for families.
 - Summer EBT – DSS learned that Connecticut is a recipient of a competitive federal grant that will provide identified families with EBT cards for summer meals. CSDE is a partner in this initiative.
- c. **Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention** – *All children will be emotionally stable, resilient and capable of self-regulation.*
Commissioner Miguel Cardona, CSDE, with Charlene Russell-Tucker and John Frassinelli, facilitated a discussion reviewing each of the policy recommendations for the Social Emotional Health Prevention and Intervention result statement, the status of agency responses and dialogue across member agencies. Highlights include:
 - Connecticut School-based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) is a cross agency effort to ensure that youth receive mental health treatment rather than involvement with police. Agencies involved include: DMHAS, CSS, CSDE, DCF, and Child Health & Development Institute (CHDI).
 - Project Aware – a five-year federal grant, SAMHSA, coordinates cross-agency support to three school districts. CSDE manages the grant in partnership with DSS and CHDI.
 - CSDE and DSS will pursue ways to enable Medicaid reimbursement to support community behavioral health providers in schools.

Detailed notes were captured from this discussion and will be reviewed and prepared for a later distribution.

III. Discussion, Wrap-up, and Next Steps

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz provided a summary of the meeting, findings and next steps going forward.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2020, from 1 to 3 p.m.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.