

West Region
Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2013

Attendees: Fritz Gorst, Gil Kellersman, Lisa Schwab, Cindy Stramandinoli, Arlene Steinfeld

Budget Update

Fritz gave a budget update which included closing out FY13 and the budget adjustments the Department had put in place to not run a deficit. There was also discussion going forward to FY14.

Several council members expressed their concern over services that are still needed by families who are struggling to support their child and do not feel they can hold out much longer supporting their child in their home.

Living the Mission

The group discussed "Living the Mission" and the most recent events that took place within the Department and at Manchester Community College.

Café to Go

Café to Go - The Council discussed the World Café concept which gives you a guideline for families to get together and clarify a purpose of what they want to discuss. From there, you find a hospitable space where you can explore questions that matter to you and encourage everyone's contribution to the topic, connect diverse perspectives and listen for insights and share discoveries. At these meetings, families would be able to speak their mind and heart, listen to understand, connect ideas and learn to listen together for insights and deeper questions.

After a spirited discussion of topics and issues, the Regional Advisory Council felt that the subject of respite services for families would be an important topic for a Café to Go meeting. Plans are underway to organize a meeting in a Southwest and Northwest location in the region.