

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
February 4, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Virginia Del Monaco (co-chair), Dr. Irv Jennings (co-chair), Maureen Price-Boreland, Joseph Marino, Barbara Ellison, Dr. Michael Lustick and Genevieve Stuart

Others Attending: Karl Kemper, Molly Cole, Barbara Sheldon, Patricia Lorenson, Pamela Heller, June Wiehn, Pamela Trotman, Dr. Brett Rayford, Laurie Landry, Michelle Riordan, Jill Jensen,

Members Absent: Lorna Grivois, Vanessa Gonzalez, Pamela Brisette-Campbell and Catherine Holahan

Bureau of Adoption and Interstate Compact:

Bureau Chief June Wiehn gave a very informative presentation on the Bureau of Adoption and Interstate Compact. Please see enclosed materials for details.

Discussion highlights:

- 46% of Children profiled in the Heart Gallery have found forever homes
- There were 595 DCF adoptions in 2007
- Subsidized Guardianship is funded by the state, no federal money is involved
- Subsidy amounts are equal to foster parent payments and receive the same medical benefits.
- An adopted person must be 21 to request an Adoption Search

Legislative Programs Review and Investigations Committee (LPRIC):

Michelle Riordan and Jill Jensen were present to give a brief overview of the LPRIC recommendations concerning the roles of the SAC and the CHBAC. Please see enclosed materials.

LPRIC is a bipartisan committee, with 6 democrats and 6 republican members. Their focus was on monitoring, evaluation and tracking DCF's Outcome Measures. In order to gather information for their recommendations, the Committee collected 125 reports and documents in addition to reviewing other data. Interviews were also held with various stakeholders. They found that Juan F decree is working well and there has been progress. However, there are areas of weakness such as performance based contracting, gaps in reported data, data tends to be fragmented and staff has limited ability to work with the data.

Other Findings:

- ❖ Feedback from advisory groups isn't utilized
- ❖ Some groups called for by statute are not needed anymore
- ❖ DCF Advisory Council should be mandated
- ❖ CBHAC should be incorporated into SAC

The recommendations, along with feedback from DCF and the OCA will go to the legislation and public hearings in the months of February or March. If passed, a bill would go forward at the end of May and could take up to a year to pass and be implemented.

Karl Kemper stated DCF agrees with most of the 37 recommendations with some modifications. A copy of DCF's response was sent via e-mail to SAC members on 2/4/08.

Other points of interest:

- ❖ CBHAC is its own statutory body
- ❖ SAC approves members for appointment to the CBHAC
- ❖ CBHAC gives the SAC an annual report and offers recommendations to SAC
- ❖ SAC needs to decide it's response to this report before the public hearings

Bureau of Adolescent and Transitional Services:

Dr. Brett Rayford gave an update on the Bureau of Adolescent and Transitional Services. Please see enclosed handout for details.

Discussion highlights:

- The bureau works with youth ages 14-18, or age 23 in the case of youth pursuing a secondary education
- The bureau provides youth with strength based, gender specific and spiritual based services to attain permanency
- Working toward "Tadpole Mentoring" to target a younger age group, 10-13 year olds. Utilizing federal funds to reach this population
- There are 11 functioning Youth Advisory Groups
- There are 300 youth in mentoring programs statewide
- Bureau works with DMHAS to ensure a smooth transition when a youth ages out of DCF's care

Next Meeting: March 3, 2008
9:00-12:00 a.m. (Please note the time extension)
CAFAP Office
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, Connecticut