

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2, 2009
MINUTES**

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Virginia Del Monaco, Co-Chair; Dr. Irv. Jennings, Co-Chair; Molly Cole; Ivy Farinella, Pamela Ferguson; Catherine Holahan, Laurie Landry; Patricia Lorenson; Dr. Michael Lustick; Maureen Price-Boreland, Valentin Rosario, Barbara Sheldon; and Commissioner Susan Hamilton

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Pamela Trotman, Lorna Grivois and Joseph Marino

INVITED

QUESTS: Fernando Muniz, DCF; Dr. Robert Plant, DCF

Discussion concerning FAVOR/Mental Health Block Grant

Dr. Robert Plant was invited to this meeting to continue the on-going discussing surrounding the concerns with FAOVR. Barbara Sheldon spoke of her conversations with members of the community who feel there is a lack of advocacy and support from FAVOR. She also stated that she has been told that families who are in need have stated that they don't want to contact FAVOR because they have heard that it would be fruitless. Dr. Plant responded that neither he nor Tim Marshall have received any direct complaints about FAVOR and that DCF can not respond if there have not been any formal inquiries. At an earlier meeting it discussed that a letter was sent to the Commissioner's office with information and concerns about FAVOR and that the sender did not receive any response. Once again DCF stated that after reviewing the correspondence logs we can find no record of such letter, Dr. Plant also stated that he has never seen any type of correspondence concerning this subject. Commissioner Hamilton reiterated that DCF would need specific complaints in order to follow up. Dr. Plant suggested that anyone who has a complaint contact Tim Marshall. Virginia Del Monaco stated that she has spoken with Mr. Marshall but hasn't seen any positive changes. Dr. Plant suggested that Tim be invited to a future meeting to continue this discussion.

Molly Cole stated that one of the SAC's responsibilities is to monitor the Block Grant and the contracts associated with it. In order to fulfill this responsibility the SAC will need access to the associated data that measures accountability. Dr. Plant explained that the Behavioral Health Data System (BHDS) is not working well and there are problems with data quality. DCF is in the process of building a new system (PSDCRS) that has a family satisfaction component. The new system should be in use by the end of the fiscal year. The Commissioner said that DCF will provide the data that has been captured to the SAC. The Commissioner also stated that the CBHAC is the designated body for review of the Mental Health Block Grant however; she believes there is a role for SAC in that process and that they should work with CBHAC to that end. The Commissioner also suggested that Marilyn Cloud be invited to a SAC meeting to discuss these issues.

Dr. Plant went on to explain that FAVOR is engaged in a strategic process with 2 goals in mind:

1. Delivery of family advocacy across the state.
2. Support growth of family movement across the state.

Their funding is split between the two; however the 2nd goal has not been that successful.

DCF is ending their contract with FAVOR and will be issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to get stakeholder input to re-procure new services. There isn't a timeline yet for the RFI to be issued but DCF is planning for a new contract by the end of September 2009. Tim Marshall is the DCF lead for this process.

Strategic Plan Review

The process of looking at indicators that showed what the agency is doing that is successful but also what areas are in need of improvement began in February of 2008 to implement an integrated statewide change in the agency. The Strategic Plan that Commissioner Hamilton has proposed was designed using input from 5 global outcome measures:

1. Prevention
2. Keeping Kids safely at home
3. Permanency
4. Child well-being
5. Transition - preparing youth for adulthood

The process also included input from various sources, including advocacy groups, non-profit organizations and the community. Present Bureau Chiefs were asked to tie in outcome measure indicators to their proposals. Each Bureau will have its own Quality Improvement unit and local staff will begin to drive training plans for the area offices, these changes will help the agency achieve a better trained workforce.

SAC members voiced their concern that they were not asked for the Council's input. Commissioner Hamilton stated that this information had been presented at earlier meetings and if the Council would like to make recommendation or have feedback they should submit them to her within the next few weeks.

Citizen Review Panel

Kim Nilson was unable to attend today's meeting, therefore this discussion will be scheduled for a later date.

Meeting Recap

The council discussed between members the need to set aside a full day meeting to discuss "Where the SAC is going", "How the SAC can be effective" and How to comment of the rumored closing of Riverview and CJR. It was decided that the March 2nd meeting would be a full day meeting and the majority of time would be spent discussing a strategic plan for the SAC. Fernando will look at having a member of the National Resource Center attend to act as a facilitator for this discussion.

PLEASE NOTE: The March meeting was cancelled due to weather, the next meeting will now take place on April 6th and will be a full day 9:00-2:00 at the CAFAP Office.