

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
June 2, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Virginia Del Monaco (co-chair), Dr. Irv Jennings (co-chair), Fernando Muniz, Joseph Marino, Dr. Michael Lustick, Genevieve Stuart, Molly Cole, Barbara Sheldon, Pamela Trotman, Catherine Holahan, Lorna Grivois and Pamela Brisette-Campbell, Maureen Price-Boreland and Laurie Landry

Others Attending: Deputy Commissioner Floyd Blair, Dr. Lois Berkowitz, Dr. Laurie Van der Heide and Patricia Lorensen

Members Absent: Barbara Ellison

Foster Care Disruption Study: Dr. Lois Berkowitz and Dr. Laurie Van de Heide presented to the SAC on the CT Behavioral Health Partnership Report, "Identifying Relationships Between Use of Behavioral Healthcare Treatment and Outcomes for DCF-Involved Youth who are Placed in Foster Care for the First Time; Re-analysis of the Findings When Children Aged 0-3 are Removed from the Sample."

Highlights from the discussion:

- Data was taken from the files of 1,077 children removed from their home for the first time by DCF between July 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006.
- The population of children between 0-3 were removed from the study as they would not receive behavioral health care services.
- The study determined three definitions of disruption: Any disruption, Negative Disruption and Negative and Unplanned Disruption.
- Gender did not appear to be related to disruption rates.
- Hispanic youth entering foster care and African American youth entering relative care/special study were more likely to experience a disruption than respective comparison groups despite the definition of disruption being used.
- Youth placed in relative care or special study care were significantly lower than for youth placed in traditional foster care.
- Most disruptions occur within the first 7 days of removal from the home.
- Older youth (age 10 to 18) were more likely to experience a disruption than children ages birth to 10.

Citizen Review Panel Report: Molly Cole explained that the report is still in draft form and that the SAC received an extension, June 15th, for submitting the report. There are three areas of concern that the report will focus on at this time.

1. Children's Attorneys and the DCF Workers need better communication
2. Conflict if an attorney is representing multiple siblings
3. Issues with matching youth, providers and families with services

Molly will continue working on the report and asked that members either call her or meet with her to give their input.

SAC planning and meeting schedule: The next SAC meeting will be on July 28th, all members present agreed it was important to use this meeting to develop an action plan and schedule for the next year.

Next Meeting: July 28, 2008
9:00-12:00 a.m. (Please note the time extension)
CAFAP Office
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, Connecticut