Region 4 Advisory Council Full Members Meeting  
January 17, 2017

Hartford DCF Office  
250 Hamilton Street  
Hartford, CT

Members Present: Sarah Becker, Tim Carroll, Alice Farrell, Hector Glynn, Brenetta Henry, Wayne Johnson (DCF), Beth Landolina (DCF), Nick Lebron, Lorna Little, Manny Maldonado, April Mayo, Sabra Mayo, Evelyn Melendez, Judi Orlando, Lisa Palazzo, Cynthia Vazquez, Maritza Velez (DCF), Kelly Waterhouse


The DCF Region 4 RAC meeting was held at the Hartford DCF office from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. This meeting is for the full membership & DCF Staff.

Overview of Meeting
The overview of the meeting was to go over the revised Juan F. exit plan, discuss the CQI structure, family and youth engagement/feedback via providers, YAB update and discuss agenda items going forward.

Motion by Brenetta Henry to accept the minutes from the November and December meetings, 2nd by Tim Carroll

Approved by RAC

Juan F. Exit Plan

- Handout given
- Juan F.-20 years ago a group of non-profit lawyers brought a lawsuit against the department for not meeting the needs of a youth they named Juan F.
- As a result of the lawsuit we have the consent decree
- We have been back to court numerous times and finally have an exit plan
- We have 22 measures that we have to meet or achieve
- We have been trying to meet these measures for 15 or 16 years now
- The Court Monitor’s office reviews cases and looks at data to see if we are meeting the measures
- Under this current administration we have been able to achieve some big things
- Reducing the number of children in care, reducing the number of children in congregate care, and having no children in out of state congregate care
- The courts have told the court monitor and the attorney for Juan F. that it is time to get out of this decree
- They came up with a plan to exit Juan F.
- The judge ruled that 16 of the 22 measures are no longer have to be monitored
- 6 Measure left, 4 of the 16 measures have to be sustained for a period of time
  1. Intakes Commenced Timely
  2. Intakes completed timely
  3. Appropriate Case Plans
  4. Children and family’s needs met
  5. In-Home cases meet the visitation standard
  6. Caseworkers will not have caseloads over 100% for more than 30 days
- The court monitor will pull cases for quality reviews
- OM1 & OM2 we have met and sustained for months-now quality is the focus on these measures, did we interview the child alone, fatherhood engagement and engagement in services
- How often are the assessment tools looked at?
- What can the CQI members do to help meet these measures?
- We folded that work into Case planning CQI team
- Regional QI division consists of PM Natalia Liriano, SWS Beth Landolina and 2 SW in the Region
- OM 3 the court monitor reviews case plans each quarter
- They look for, engagement of the child and family, assessment, goals and objectives, progress and steps to achieve goals and objectives for a 6 month period
- ACR team looks at 6 months of narratives and the case plan
- The case plan needs to demonstrate goals and objectives, progress and next steps to achieve the goals
- Is there a discharge plan to keep families connected to services?- Add systems of care and RAC information
- Case plans require the supervisors signature, the supervisor plays a critical role in the case plan, supervision with the social worker is critical to the case plan
- The supervision training around purposeful visitation- how is it going?
- Engagement we are not meeting because of fatherhood engagement and family feedback
- This is an area we need to work on
- Our QI team has created a template on what should be documented in a case plan
• OM4 child and family’s needs met-demonstrating that these are being met-why is education not included?
• Education was taken off the table statewide because we are doing well there
• OM5 in-home case meeting visitation 2 x per month, quantity but also quality and engagement
• OM6 Social worker case load not to be over 100% for more than 30 days-the agreement is to have an average of 75% case load-but remember that is an average-the department will have to report for 12 months
• DCF will self monitor on this for 12 months to make sure we sustain it
• The agreement adds 6 million dollars added to expand service delivery
• This agreement requires approval from the legislature
• They are concerned about the cap on DCF funding
• The Commissioner will be at the LOB this week –the appropriation meeting is open to the public
• Some social workers are worried about exiting the consent decree because caseloads used to be really high
• This kind of work is what families deserve whether we get out of Juan F. of not

CQI Structure

• Thank you to all the RAC members that joined a CQI team
• We are restructuring the teams
• Case planning team to include the Intake CQI team-meeting is this Thursday @ 1:30 here in Hartford
• Racial Justice is up and running
• FELT (Fatherhood) team is up and running
• Permanency and Child Safely at home will merge
• Anyone that would like a one to one meeting with any of the CQI leads to bring you up to speed on any of the teams let Terry know, she can connect you

Family & Youth Engagement

• Providers, please look at your agencies to see if there is a youth that should be included in our RAC
• We can give you a script and orientation for the youth
• We need more youth voices at this RAC
YAB

- Nick and Chris will meet with the YAB (youth advisory board) on Friday
- Meeting will take place with the SW and Our Piece of the Pie representative
- Engage youth from community conversation
- RAC to fit into the youth meetings not them into us
- Tomorrow night the Commissioner meets with the statewide YAB
- What do children need when they transition from care?

Motion to adjourn by Brenetta Henry and 2nd by Evelyn Melendez
The Region 4 RAC full membership meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Submitted by,
Terry Hall