

Chafee Advisory Group

Second Meeting

February 7, 2020

Minutes

In Attendance: Jessica Trombetta, Kelli Puryear, Michele Safrin, Niambi London, Betsy Montalvo, Ben Magnussen, Shannon Lain, Susan Radosti, Tatianna Mickens, Tosca Blandford-Bynoe, David Rosen, Mary Coogan, Tyhesha White, Kelly Nestor, Stefani Thachik, Janel Winter, Yolanda Allen, Alice Foulkes-Garcia, Anita Costello, Dan Rhoton, Randi Mandelbaum

Absent: Suzanne Kreie, Steven Kairys, Durell Clark

1. Welcome, Introductions & Updates

- a. Welcome
- b. Introductions
- c. Quick review of last meeting minutes & of the by-laws
 - i. Note: Randi does not represent of the Office of the Law Guardian as indicated, by-laws will be changed to reflect that
 - ii. December 2019 meeting minutes finalized
- d. Updating contact list to reflect correct contact info, titles, etc. Will be emailed to the group
- e. DCF Updates tied to Strategy Teams:
 - i. Strategy Team 2 “The Youth Voice”
 1. Youth Council has been launched
 - ii. Strategy Team 5 “Services for Young Adults 18+”
 1. Aftercare model needed updating
 - a. Youth Villages/LifeSet Program will be updated
 - i. DCF won award for a 3- year demo pilot
 - ii. Will serve approximately 300 young people
 - iii. Intensive case management will be provided
 - iii. Strategy Team 8 “Using Data to Measure Service Delivery”
 1. Federal NYTD audit/review in June 2020
 2. NYTD: National Youth in Transition Database

2. Ethics Information

- a. Ethics packets handed-out but presentation will be tabled for next meeting in May
- b. For State and non-State staff
 - i. Rutgers staff are considered State employees

3. Chafee Strategy Teams

- a. Strategy Team Members chart handed-out
 - i. CAG members committed to two (2) Teams
 - ii. “Other interested CAG members” is where people expressed interest but were not assigned to that team.
- b. Introduction of Team Chairs (OAS Staff)
 - i. Ben Magnussen - Strategy Team 4 – Promoting Kinship Care, Permanency and Connections
 - ii. Shannon Lain - Strategy Team 7 – Technology
 - iii. Betsy Montalvo - Strategy Team 6 – Marketing Chafee Services to Eligible Youth
 - iv. The remainder of the teams are chaired by existing CAG participants from OAS (Jessica Trombetta, Kelli Puryear, Michele Safrin and Niambi London)
- c. New strategy team #11 added
 - i. Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- d. Strategy teams #6 & #7 being combined
 - i. Marketing Chafee Services to Eligible Youth & Technology
- e. Next Steps:
 - i. Chairs will begin scheduling initial calls & meetings
 - ii. Question posed: “Can everyone be notified of other individual team meetings if they want to join?”
 - 1. Not encouraged, especially in the beginning as teams ramp up
 - 2. Not unless someone has urgent desire to contribute to that topic
 - 3. Dave Rosen offered that other Chairs contact him for LGBTQ considerations and perspective as needed
 - iii. OAS will create a matrix of meetings to avoid conflicts
 - iv. Strategy Teams document will be finalized and sent to all members

4. Expectant & Parenting Youth (EPY) Strategy Team #10 Plan Overview

- a. Handout distributed highlighting needs & priority areas for this strategy
 - i. Child Protection & Permanency Policy and Practice
 - 1. Uptick in calls from Local Offices with policy questions
 - 2. Policy is lacking, issues arise not addressed in policy
 - 3. Clarification needed regarding case assignment
 - a. Adolescents on parent’s case, now parenting and have a child welfare case of their own
 - 4. Youth have a right to parent and to be in a living situation that allows for that
 - 5. Utilizing the IL Stipend
 - 6. Training is still the 1st step in the process
 - a. Need training for workers that are working with expectant and parenting youth
 - i. Pre-natal care
 - ii. Unique or non-traditional circumstances
 - 1. DD youth

2. LGBTQ youth

ii. Data Collection

1. A need to confer with DCF's Office of Research, Evaluation and Reporting (RER) to assess the data currently captured in the Child Welfare Case Management System (NJ Spirit)
 - a. System refinements needed to ensure high levels of data reliability
 - b. Need to look at what/how data is currently captured
 - c. Review other areas of NJ Spirit to identify areas needing enhancement
2. Will collaborate with the Data Chafee Strategy Team #8

iii. Out of Home (OOH) Programming

1. Resource Care, Supervised Independent Living, Permanent Supportive Housing
 - a. Limited for parenting and co-parenting youth
 - b. Will need to involve Licensing & Contracting
 - c. Need to increase resources for expectant Dads
 - i. Will consult with DCF's Office of Family Voice on their Fatherhood Engagement initiative
2. Explore the role of the Child Health Unit (CHU)
 - a. Roles and responsibilities?
 - b. Areas for refinement

iv. Services and Supports

1. Ensure EPY are aware of and know how to access pre & post medical care and supports
2. Ensure children of youth in foster care have access to services
 - a. Childcare
 - b. TANF
3. Ensure EPY are connected to educational supports & career exploration
4. Explore EPT peer-to-peer opportunities and supports
 - a. Need to avoid youth feeling isolated

5. The Chafee Philosophy

- a. DCF's Race Equity Steering Committee
- b. Healing-centered work
 - i. How are we helping young people to heal?
 - ii. Viewed a portion of Dr. Shawn Ginwright's video
 - iii. Jessica to forward Dr. Ginwright's slide "CARMA" to the group (see this article for this acronym and information: <https://www.parentmap.com/article/want-heal-your-child-start-healing-yourself>)
 - iv. Dan Rhoton mentioned "Healing Hurt People" program at Drexel Univ. (<https://drexel.edu/cnvsj/healing-hurt-people/overview/>)

6. Closing and Wrap Up

- a. Still in need of an overall Co-Chair for the group – contact Jessica if interested
- b. Still looking for a Faith-based rep to join the group
- c. Next group meeting is Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 10am

All ideas reflected are not endorsed by the agency.