

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP  
Hartford

**Draft** Minutes of Meeting  
(Subject to Revision)  
April 13, 2017

**Call to Order**

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held in North Meeting Room C of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

Member agencies  
represented by:

Michael Carone, Legislative and Regulations Analyst, Department of Social Services  
Leah Grenier, Principal Budget Specialist, Office of Policy and Management  
Bonnie Koba, Arts in Education Program Manager and Director of Higher Order Thinking (HOT)  
Schools, Department of Economic and Community Development  
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Health Program Associate, Children and Youth with Special Health Care  
Needs, Department of Public Health (via telephone)

Others:

Maggie Adair, Office of Early Childhood  
Bonnie Edmondson, Connecticut State Department of Education  
John Frassinelli, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Linda Goodman, Acting Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood  
Steven Hernández, Achievement Gap Task Force, Commission on Women, Children and Seniors  
Celeste Jorge, Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Anthony Loomis, Wallingford Public Schools  
Salvatore Menzo, Wallingford Public Schools  
Jaquita Monroe, Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division  
Kari Sullivan, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Iris White, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut  
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education

**II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2017**

Minutes from both meetings approved unanimously.

**III. The Role of Health in Academic Outcomes: Addressing the Needs of the Whole Child**

Celeste Jorge, Epidemiologist, Connecticut Department of Health  
Bonnie Edmondson, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent, Wallingford Public Schools

Anthony Loomis, Wallingford Public Schools

The team's presentation described the link of health and academic achievement; provided an overview of health behaviors of Connecticut's youth from the 2015 Connecticut School Health Survey; discussed strategies to move the needle and showcased Wallingford Public Schools as a "living example" of how a district and community can work together to improve student health and increase academic achievement.

**IV. Reducing Chronic Absence in Connecticut's Schools: A Prevention and Intervention Guide**

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer  
Connecticut State Department of Education

Ms. Russell-Tucker announced that the [new chronic absence guide](#) will be released at a press event with Governor Malloy and Commissioner Wentzell during the week of April 17, 2017. She acknowledged the contributions of the Lieutenant Governor and all of the members of the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap.

**V. Member Roundtable**

A roundtable discussion was conducted and provided an update for members of the work of the participating agencies on behalf of children and families.

**VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Thursday, October 12, 2017, from 9 to 11 a.m. Location to be determined.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.