

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting
(Subject to Revision)
January 11, 2018

Call to Order

Commissioner of Education, Dianna R. Wentzell, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. The meeting was held in Meeting Room Plaza North D, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut

Member agencies
represented by:

Jeffrey Beckham, Staff Counsel and Communications Director, Department of Administrative Services
Nachiketa Bhatt, Education Consultant, Department of Children and Families
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
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

Guests:

Brian R. Coughlin, Gallo & Robinson, LLC
Linda Goodman, Office of Early Childhood
David Fink, Partnership for Strong Communities
Steven Hernández, Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
Charles Patton, Partnership for Strong Communities
Lauren Ruth, Connecticut Voices for Children
Kari Sullivan, Connecticut State Department of Education
Iris White, Connecticut State Department of Education

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

II. Partnership for Strong Communities Presentation

Charles Patton, Senior Policy Analyst
Partnership for Strong Communities

Mr. Patton presented on “How Housing Can Help Narrow the Achievement Gap.” The presentation outlined two goals: 1) to create more reasonably priced homes in more municipalities across Connecticut and 2) to improve the quality of housing and access to resources for families who want to remain where they currently live. It demonstrated the current landscape of affordable housing in Connecticut and the impact on families and students. The presentation outlined the successes to date and ideas for how member agencies can support stronger housing policies. It concluded with a discussion on how the expansion of housing options can reduce the achievement gap.

IV. Supports for Student Success

Nachiketa Bhatt, Education Consultant
Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Mr. Bhatt provided an overview of how DCF supports students academically within the context of the “whole child.” Some examples included:

- Early Childhood Consultation Partnership
- Early Childhood Practice Guide for Children Aged Zero to Five
- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools and Bounce Back
- DCF Unified School District #2’s Virtual Academy
- DCF Regional Education Services

The presentation concluded with an overview of the role of the education consultants in DCF’s Regional Education Services (RES) team in providing direct services, consultation and training to DCF personnel. In their role they also interface with local education agencies, Regional Education Service Centers, Approved Private Special Education Programs, Surrogate Parents, public and private agencies about the students who are involved with DCF.

IV. Update on Students Displaced by Hurricanes

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

Ms. Russell-Tucker provided an overview of Connecticut’s statewide response to students and families that have relocated to Connecticut due to hurricane damage in their home community. A total of 1,924 students have enrolled in Connecticut schools as of January 5, 2018, with the majority of those students in Alliance Districts. A review and discussion followed of the challenges expressed by districts in a recent survey. CSDE continues to provide support and participate in the statewide response to the special needs of these families and students

III. Member Roundtable

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

IV. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2017

Minutes from October 12, 2017, meeting were unanimously approved.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018, 9 to 11 a.m., 450 Columbus Boulevard, Plaza North Meeting Room D

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.