

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP  
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting (Subject to Revision)  
June 16, 2014

**Call to Order**

Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held in Hearing Room 1C of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members present were: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Kip Bergstrom, Department of Economic and Community Development  
Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management  
Karin Motta, Department of Housing  
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Department of Public Health  
Stephen Tracy, Department of Children and Families

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2014.**

Minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. Alliance District Convening on May 1, 2014**

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education provided an overview of the Alliance District meeting with state and local community partners that took place on May 1, 2014. Alliance Districts met as teams with their community partners to: 1) review district data to identify service gaps; 2) conduct a resource inventory; and 3) identify strategies to implement concrete next steps to address the gaps. Break-out sessions were facilitated to continue the discussion on the following topics: 1) Social, Emotional and Physical Health; 2) Vulnerable Populations; 3) Chronic Absenteeism, Suspension and Expulsion Continuum; and 4) Students in State Care. District/community teams participated in a survey exercise to demonstrate areas of strength and need for community partnerships. Next steps include focusing resources on regions with the most need for assistance and strengthening partnerships at the state and local level.

**IV. Featured Agency: Connecticut Department of Public Health**

Robin Tousey-Ayers, Health Program Associate, Connecticut Department of Public Health, presented an overview of the State Health Improvement Plan, *Healthy Connecticut 2020: A Call to Action*. The plan includes seven areas related to health and specifically targets ways to prepare Connecticut's children for school and ending the achievement gap. The overarching themes of this Plan are health equity and economic and social determinants of health. Priorities include: high blood pressure; heart disease and stroke; obesity; vaccine-preventable infectious diseases; falls; preconception health and inter-conception care; premature/preterm births and low birth weight; poor housing conditions; and unhealthy community design. Tousey-Ayers also shared *Live Healthy Connecticut 2014-2018, a Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health*

*Promotion Plan*, the Department's comprehensive proactive approach in modifying chronic disease factors which may contribute to the educational achievement gap. She announced the press release of the Connecticut School Health Survey results which will be e-mailed to all members. The survey results show an association between risky health behaviors and academic achievement which should be taken into consideration in the Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan.

**V. Agency Responses to the Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan**

Steven Hernández, Director of Public Policy and Research at the Connecticut Commission on Children and member of the Achievement Gap Task Force (Task Force), provided an update on the Task Force's Master Plan. The document will evolve during the life of the Task Force. Agency representatives provided updates to their work in response to the Master Plan.

**VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Thursday, October 2, 2014, from 9 to 11:00 a.m. The location will be announced at a later date.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.