

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting
(Subject to Revision)
October 12, 2017

Call to Order

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held in Hearing Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

Member agencies
represented by:

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
Evonne Klein, Commissioner, Department of Housing
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
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

Guests:
Maggie Adair, Office of Early Childhood
Erin Boggs, Connecticut Open Communities Alliance (CTOCA)
Erica Bromley, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Liaison
Linda Goodman, Office of Early Childhood
Shana Hurley, Connecticut State Department of Education
Erika Nowakowski, TOW Youth Justice Center
Heather R. Petit, Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
John Frassinelli, Connecticut State Department of Education
Kari Sullivan, Connecticut State Department of Education

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2017

Minutes from April 13, 2017, meeting were unanimously approved.

III. *Out of Balance, Subsidized Housing, Segregation and Opportunity in Connecticut Report*

Erin Boggs, Esq., Executive Director
Open Communities Alliance

Ms. Boggs provided an overview of the recently released report from the Open Communities Alliance, *Out of Balance, Subsidized Housing, Segregation and Opportunity in Connecticut*. The report provides an overview on the opportunity gap in Connecticut and the role of subsidized housing policy. Members of the Interagency Council engaged in a dialogue involving the historical context of housing in Connecticut, recent improvements in opportunities for education in low-income communities and the importance of this opportunity to embrace inclusionary zoning regulations.

For more information on the *Out of Balance, Subsidized Housing, Segregation and Opportunity in Connecticut*. Report visit the [Open Communities Alliance webpage](#).

IV. **Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee (JJPOC) Update**

Erika Nowakowski, Director for Youth Justice Initiatives
Tow Youth Justice Institute

John Frassinelli, Chief
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services, and Adult Education
Connecticut State Department of Education

Erica Bromley, Juvenile Justice Liaison
Connecticut Youth Services Association

Ms. Nowakowski provided an overview of the history and purpose of the JJPOC. It was created in 2014 by Public Act 14-217 and is charged with evaluating policies related to the juvenile justice system and the expansion of juvenile jurisdiction to include persons 16 and 17 years of age. The three strategic goals to guide juvenile justice reform efforts are:

- Increase diversion of children and youth from juvenile court by 20 percent;
- Decrease the number of children and youth confined (incarcerated) in state-run facilities by 30 percent; and
- Decrease the rate of recidivism among juvenile offenders by 10 percent.

JJPOC Work Groups have been established to identify ways to implement the three strategic goals. John Frassinelli and Erica Bromley, co-chairs of the Diversion Workgroup, provided the council members with a summary of the focus and activities of the workgroup. They provided more detail on the Community-based Diversion System adopted by the JJPOC and other activities related to truancy and school-based diversion.

Additional information can be found on the [JJPOC webpage](#).

IV. **Chronic Absence Update**

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

Ms. Russell-Tucker provided an overview of chronic absence activities since the last Interagency Council meeting. The update included:

- Release of the Chronic Absence guidance document and subsequent webinar
- [Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow](#) 2017-18 Attendance Awareness Campaign
- Roundtable Discussion with Hedy Chang and Commissioner Wentzell on September 22, 2017
- Chronic Absence Data for 2016-17

Additional information on chronic absence can be found on the [Chronic Absence webpage](#).

IV. 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.

V. Next Meeting

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

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.