

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting (Subject to Revision)
October 2, 2014

Call to Order

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer of the Connecticut State Department of Education, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held in Hearing Room 1C of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

Member agencies

represented by: Jeffrey Beckham, Department of Administrative Services
Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management
Evonne Klein, Department of Housing
Krista Ostaszewski, Department of Social Services
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Connecticut State Department of Education
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Department of Public Health
Stephen Tracy, Department of Children and Families

Guests: Steven Hernandez, Achievement Gap Task Force, Commission on Children
David Kennedy, Achievement Gap Task Force, United Way of Coastal Fairfield
County

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2014.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. School-Linked Services and Community Partnership

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education, provided an update on progress made since the May 1, 2014, meeting of Alliance Districts and community partners. Progress has been made in the areas of mentoring, mental health, chronic absence, discipline/diversion and overall strategic planning and connections with community partners. A meeting will be held in the afternoon with five pilot districts and state and local United Ways to continue strengthening their connections.

IV. Governor's Prevention Partnership, Connecticut's Mentoring Partnership

Sharon Mierzwa, Director of Program Services and Operations, presented mentoring as an approach to promote positive youth development and outcomes. Her presentation included the mission of the mentoring partnership, definition of mentoring, a mentor's job description, as well as the benefits and outcomes of mentoring programs. There are currently 180,000 youth who could benefit from mentoring in Connecticut and only 21,000 have mentors. Ms. Mierzwa announced an upcoming training on October 22, 2014, entitled, "Design and Build a Mentoring Program." More information can be found at www.preventionworksct.org.

V. Connecticut Children’s Behavioral Health Plan

Kristina Stevens, Administrator from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, provided an overview and status update on the Connecticut Children’s Behavioral Health Plan. The final *Connecticut Behavioral Health Plan for Children* was submitted to the Legislature by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families on October 1, 2014. The Connecticut Children’s Behavioral Health Plan is a comprehensive, integrated plan to promote well-being and meet the mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of all children in Connecticut. The plan fulfills the requirements of Public Act 13-178, which was passed by the Legislature in the wake of the Newtown tragedy. The Connecticut Children’s Behavioral Health Plan identifies seven areas of focus that will result in significant improvements to the children’s behavioral health system, including:

1. System organization, financing and accountability.
2. Health promotion, prevention and early identification.
3. Access to a comprehensive array of services and supports.
4. Pediatric primary care and behavioral health care integration.
5. Addressing disparities in access to culturally appropriate care.
6. Family and youth engagement.
7. Workforce development.

More information and a link to the plan can be found at www.plan4children.org.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be announced at a later date.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.