

Meeting Minutes
CT Kids Report Card Leadership Committee Meeting:
Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014 Quarterly Meeting
10:00AM in Room 1E of the LOB

1. **Welcome and Co-Chairs Remarks**
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 10:06AM.
2. **Project Status Report**
 - a. Website Developments
 - i. Rep. Diana Urban noted data gathering challenges. She then announced a new partnership with the Connecticut Data Portal Chief Data Officer Tyler Kleykamp.
 - b. New Resources
 - i. Rep. Urban announced the arrival of Special Projects Assistant Alessandra Burgett.
3. **CT Kid's Report Card Data Development**
 - a. Single Agency Data Liaison: Lt. Governor's Letter
 - i. David Nee noted a letter sent by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman regarding the desire for all state agencies to begin working with Tyler Kleykamp, regarding data requests. Her letter indicated that Tyler Kleykamp is also a designated resource for the CT Kid's Report Card. Rep. Urban added that agency heads have begun to provide feedback regarding formal agency data liaisons.
4. **CT Open Data Portal Overview**
 - a. Background and Current Status
 - i. Tyler Kleykamp introduced himself, summarized the importance data can play in the legislative process. He clearly defined open data as not only being the data that is legally accessible, but also has to be readable through a machine's program. He then briefly discussed Executive Order 39 regarding the establishment of the CT Open Data Portal, the data advisory panel, and the agency impact the executive order creates. David Nee asked Tyler Kleykamp if there will be training and support for agencies to have this change in attitude from data owners to data stewards. Tyler Kleykamp responded that there will be trainings for the agencies and monthly meetings. Rep. Diana Urban asked Tyler Kleykamp if he could communicate in the trainings that the intent of the CT Kid's Report Card is not to create a 'gotcha' moment, but simply informing the public of the status of children and where focus is needed to make things better for them. Tyler Kleykamp responded that anecdotally he has had conversations with state agencies about this concept and he believes that as time goes on that perception will fade and this will become a normal practice. Martha Stone asked Tyler Kleykamp if there are any parameters or a timeline where agencies will provide the data in a timely manner for public use. Tyler Kleykamp noted this area is a significant challenge, as some data appears old because of the way it is collected by an agency, whereas others the data is collected and transmitted almost instantaneously. There is a process being developed to have an inventory of how frequently data is collected across the state so that he and the public can know when to expect the data to be available.
 - b. Future Plans
 - i. Bennett Pudlin noted he and Jill Jensen held a meeting about data development efforts of the CT Kid's Report Card with Tyler Kleykamp roughly one month prior to this meeting. He noted this would be an ideal working relationship over having to identify a data liaison for each state agency report to the CT Kid's Report Card Staff leadership. Bennett Pudlin then discussed the efforts of the CT Data Collaborative in relation to the CT Kids Report Card. He introduced Michelle Riordan-Nold, who was recently hired as the executive director of CT Data Collaborative.
5. **Selected Indicator Updates**
 - a. ***Are Connecticut Children Growing up in a Stable Living Environment?***
 - i. Chronic Absenteeism Strategic Action Group (SAG) Progress Report
 1. Charlene Russell-Tucker provided an overview of the Chronic Absenteeism SAG's last meeting. She indicated the two subgroups within the SAG (Data Development and What Works), outlined their goals, identified partners, and discussed progress. Rep. Whitt Betts asked what led to the selection of the four communities (Vernon, New Britain, Meriden, and New Haven) to meet with the SAG. Erica Bromley stated that representatives from those communities had been actively engaged in Chronic Absenteeism group prior to their selection and were identified as communities previously taking on the issue independently. Charlene then discussed the What Works subgroup's efforts, providing policy examples being done in and out of state. Rep. Susan Johnson asked if the issue of family transiency had been discussed by the SAG. Rep. Johnson also asked how the SAG or the State Department of Education (SDE) collaborated with probate courts. Charlene Russell-Tucker indicated efforts to connect with probate courts stemmed from having individuals from CSSD as part of the SAG, though they are hoping to establish formal relations with local probate courts. She then noted on May 1st SDE met with the 30 Alliance Districts and statewide partners to discuss the needs and challenges each district faces and strategies to connect with community partners to better serve the children in those districts.
 - ii. Questions and Comments
 1. Rep. Cathy Abercrombie asked about home visitation program that the state recently received a federal grant for, which assists in identifying behavioral/mental health needs for older children. Charlene Russell-Tucker responded that they do have a member of the SAG from SDE working with DPH on the home visitation program.
 2. Judith Meyers asked if the Alliance Districts are looking to explore pre-school chronic absenteeism rates. Bennet Pudlin stated that in prior years the CT Data Collaborative was receiving data from the Discovery Communities on absenteeism from pre-kindergarten to third grade. They are currently exploring with SDE exactly what pre-kindergarten data are available in the state's public school information system, its reliability/completeness, and the reporting rules.

3. Rep. Abercrombie made note that not all school districts have district run pre-kindergarten programs, but instead have full-day kindergarten programs. Many towns though have pre-kindergarten programs that actively coordinate with school districts and should be treated as active players in this discussion. Commissioner Jones-Taylor responded that the Pre-Kindergarten Information System (PKIS) has data on children enrolled in those programs that are funded by the state even if it is not directly linked with the school system.

b. **Are Connecticut Children Safe**

- i. Latest DCF Abuse/Neglect Data (Trends and story behind the data)
 1. Kimberly Nelson began her presentation by discussing the reason behind transitioning to the Differential Response System (DRS), which is known in CT as Family Assessment Response (FAR). She then discussed the data regarding abuse and neglect, noting that allegations of neglect are substantially more likely to occur than abuse. She went on to state that since implementation, DCF has completed 22,000 FAR cases. In the 2014 fiscal year, 38-40% of calls made into the care line were referred to FAR. Since implementation, 5-7% of cases referred to FAR were subsequently transferred to DCF investigation and only 2% of families were transferred to ongoing services after being referred to FAR. The percentage of cases that received a subsequent report dropped from 42% to 28%. Kimberly Nelson then stated DCF reviewed 250 FAR cases to get a better idea of how to improve aspects of FAR. Some of these improvements included standardized practices for documentation, enhanced outreach efforts to fathers/paternal relatives, reduction in the rule-out criteria, changes in determination practices, and policy revisions to improve the handling of FAR cases. In addition, improvements to Community Supports for Families (CSF) program were outlined in the presentation, noting 2,541 families with 5,174 children were served since 2012 and 87.4% of families referred by DCF to this program accepted the services. Kimberly Nelson stated 65% of 2,260 families that were discharged from the program were discharged because they met the majority of the goals in their plan of care or priority goals. In addition, 19% of families were discharged because they chose to discontinue services. Two items noted as actions to turn the curve for CSF based upon the review included the addition of a evidence based tool to identify strengths and needs of families for service deliver and working with Anne McIntyre-Lahner to refine CSF program performance measures.
- ii. Questions and comments
 1. Rep. Susan Johnson asked about the needs from caregivers discovered during this process and what rules or regulations limit the ability for DCF or its caregivers to provide assistance to families in need of housing. Kimberly Nelson clarified the program does provide some assistance for families to finance security deposits, back electric bills, or rental assistance, but that those resources are finite and often delegated to families that have proven they can self-sustain after the initial period of assistance. Nancy DiMauro stated that once a family has been referred to FAR, they are not qualified for DCF's supportive housing for families program. She indicated currently that program has a waitlist ranging from 800 to 900 families. Rep. Johnson asked about the impact this waitlist and the struggles families have on the behavioral/mental health of children. Nancy DiMauro responded that homelessness or housing insecurity has a notable impact on those areas, as well as school attendance and enrollment in early head start or education programs. Rep. Johnson asked what services the case management systems provide for youth or families facing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or comparable problems. Nancy DiMauro responded that the case management program through Connection Incorporated provides trauma-informed services and referrals to appropriate services available throughout the state. She added most families on the waitlist are being provided other DCF services. Nancy DiMauro noted that the housing services are heavily reliant on RAP funding, which is generally unstable and varies in total funding from year to year.
 2. Rep. Abercrombie asked about the breakdown of the regions for DCF and for further details of the 15-rule criteria to determine the families track. Kimberly Nelson responded that the 15-rule criteria are largely influenced by the seriousness of the allegations for abuse or neglect (prior child abuse/neglect fatalities, sexual abuse allegations, children in congregate care settings).

6. **Next Steps for the Leadership Committee**

- a. Select Strategy and Program Update Topics for Next Quarterly Meeting
 - i. School-Based Health Centers Program Performance
 1. Rep. Urban indicated she would like to cover this topic at the next meeting.
 - ii. Office of Early Childhood Implementation Status
 1. Rep. Urban indicated that the implementation status would also be covered at the next meeting.

7. **Adjourn**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11PM