

Families and Communities United (FCU)
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2012
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Families and Community United Mission

FCU advocates, educates, supports and empowers individuals involved with family service systems, to be resources for themselves and their communities.

Welcome and Introductions

- **In Person:** Denise Hoffman (Facilitator), Mike Danner, Phyllis Dew, Tracy Folks and Catherine Collins-McDaniels (Minutes)
- **By WebEx:** Sarina Bishop & Margery Chachkin
- **Absent:** Mike Byers, Cindy Gore, Kim Hengst, Barbara Huggins, Gloria McDonald, Erin Troup and Cathy Utz, Marsha Banks, Monica Hawkins, Tommy Hearn and Kristen Sontag

❖ **Overview of Agenda**

- Reviewed the agenda

❖ **Review Action Plan**

- Presently meetings are stepped out to 2013, so the group needs to book dates.
- Completed everything on the strategic plan to this point.
- Need to recruit more youth and parents on FCU Advisory Board.

❖ **New Laws**

- Two recently passed legislation for older youth in care and transition age youth. Youth who are working at least part-time or in job training can now stay in care until the age of 21. Previously that youth had to be in some sort of secondary education to stay until the age of 21. The second legislation is for youth who chooses to come back into care after leaving care and finds out that they're not ready.
 - Dauphin County is working on a training based on the new laws.
 - There is training for Judges about this.

❖ **Outreach/Membership**

- New Membership Training
 - Completed training with Phyllis Dew, Sarina Bishop and Margie Chachkin.
 1. Training seems to be going well at this time.
- New Applicant
 - Received an application from a person in Venango County.
- Revised FCU PowerPoint
 - No changes are submitted at this time from the Advisory Board members.

❖ **CAST I Curriculum**

- The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center has a new online curriculum on the website; CAST {Child Advocacy Studies Training} Course I. CAST II is in development now. Originally developed through National Child Protection Training Center.

- You can earn CE credits for each module taken.
- Good for workers who have completed Charting the Course.

❖ **Bucks County – Family Engagement Parent Survey**

- Denise has been working with Bucks County for the past 9 months on parent engagement initiative.
- Bucks County developed a survey for parents as part of their engagement efforts.
 - Can they add some type of opening for parents before they fill it out? Letting the parents know what they are using the information for.
 - Have parents fill out the forms anonymously so parents are more comfortable filling out the forms.
 - Suggestion to have a collection box at the agency to drop survey form into.
 - Gaps
 - We are not sure what information they are hoping to get with this survey.
 - The language is not neutral.
 - Survey is too wordy.
 - Question # 2 we don't understand who the caseworkers are.
 - Questions # 7 seems like a very board question.
 - Really are two questions
 - Didn't really like any of the questions.
 - Strengths
 - Short length of survey.

❖ **Website Updates**

- New Family Story added – Margie's Story Added
 - Thanks to Margery for sharing her story.
- Website Visitors
 - Reviewed the handout pertaining to the visits on the website.
 - Hoping for more visits based on emails sent to Family Centers, IL Coordinators and private providers and the surveys handed out at the Family Group Decision Making Conference.
 - Emphasis will be placed on sharing the 'Roadmap for Youth and Family Engagement' PowerPoint.
- Parent Handbooks added as Resources to the Families & Communities United Website
 - Chester County
 - Obtained permission to use their parent handbook.
 - Columbia County Family Center
- Youth and Family Engagement
 - Mass email out to Family Centers, IL Coordinators and Private Providers were sent an email containing information on offering the training on 'Roadmap to Youth and Family Engagement'
 - Have a separate training for the youth and parents.
 - August 29th booked training for 10 – 12 youth in Allegheny County on the youth piece of PowerPoint.
- Youth Ambassadors – New

- Western Region – Cortez Carrie
- Central Region – Greta Weis

❖ **Events / Open Discussion**

- SWAN Summer Statewide, July 17 – 18, 2012
- SWAN Annual Permanency Conference, July 18 – 20, 2012
 - Really liked the workshops and the sharing that the presenters brought to the event.
 - Closing of the event was nice
 1. 'Little Light of Mine' production by small children
 2. 'Mask' performance, based on Michael Jackson's song, by the older youth
 - a. Means the children try to hide some things and not wanting people to see the ugliness from your house
 - They allow parents to come to the conference with the children and youth.
- SWAN Fall Quarterly Conferences – Starts October 4, 2012
 - We are looking to do a training and workshop on birth parents.
- Healing Kids from Hard Places: Trauma-Informed Care Tools and Techniques

Date of Next Meeting: September 27, 3:30 – 4:30 PM