

CT Early Childhood Cabinet
Subcommittee on Families Without Holmes
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2015 • 9:30 to 12:00p.m.
165 Capitol Ave Room 307, Hartford, CT

ATTENDANCE

Member		Member	
Roderick Bremby <i>Commissioner, Department of Social Services</i>	X	Kelly Anne Day, Executive Director, New Reach	X
Myra Jones-Taylor <i>Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood</i>	X	Betsy Cronin Program Director, The Connection, Inc	
Brenda Earle Field Representative; DOH	X	Janice Elliott- the Melville Charitable Trust	X
Kristina Stevens, DCF Administrator		Arietta Slade, Yale University	x
Louis Tallarita Education Consultant – Homeless Education, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	X	Emilie Montgomery CRT	
Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez, Program Manager DCF	X	Laura Dunleavy, OEC	X
John Frassinelli, Bureau Chief - Bureau of Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, SDE	X	Magdalena Rosales-Alban <i>Director, LULAC</i>	X
Kelly Anelli, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence	X	Eileen Ward <i>Director, Children’s Community Development Center</i>	X
Margaret Flinter, Senior Vice President and Clinical Director , Community Health Center, Inc		Grace Whitney <i>Director, Head Start State Collaboration Office</i>	X
Anne Giordano, Early Childhood Consultant, EDUCATION CONNECTION	X	Elaine Zimmerman <i>Executive Director, Commission on Children</i>	
Sharri Lungarini, Advocate and Mom		Alice M. Minervino, Behavioral Health Program Manager, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services	x
Tanya Barrett, United Way		Rick Porth, United Way	
Lisa Tepper-Bates , CT Coalition to End Housing	x		
William Halsey, Department of Social Services			

A. Welcome from Commissioner Jones-Taylor

Commissioner Jones-Taylor commenced the meeting at 9:30am.

B. Introductions and Meeting Overview

Subcommittee members gave a brief introduction and Grace Whitney, Director of the Head Start Collaboration Office, opened the meeting with greetings and an overview on the direction and purpose of the subcommittee.

C. Where are we now? The Provan Network Analysis

Members took 15 minutes to complete the Proven Network Self-Analysis. The analysis gauges the perceived relationships between the organizations/agencies, with focus on the benefits and drawbacks agencies have with collaborating with other agencies.

D. Creation of the “Program and Service Directory” and “Data Directory”

Currently there is no comprehensive directory of all the programs, services and data in the state.

1. Childproofing Criteria

Grace Whitney outlined in a slide presentation the Childproofing Criteria that would be ideal for every shelter in the state. Kelly Ann Day, director of New Reach, noted that resources just aren't sufficient and available for this currently to be a reality in CT shelters.

2. Current Practices/Programs Policies

Members discussed “What connects our systems?” How can we create a systematic approach so that families receive automatic help before they have to resort to turning to a shelter? What systems do we have in place that supports families on their next steps out of the shelter? Suggestions for shelter staff training around infant mental health.

3. Current Data, Gaps, Needs – Draft Initial Data Plan

Data surrounding why infants are most prevalent in shelters indicate that very young mothers are subjected to domestic violence and coming in to protect their children.

E. Creation of Policy and Legislative Agenda

Discussion began around “How can we have the same standard and resources for all the shelters in the state? Commissioner Bremby noted that the social system is not working. Work ahead: Compile rough first draft of provider/ service directories specifically focused on homeless families and make final directory available online at multiple agency platforms. Identify what are the best practices/services happening in the state for homeless and replicate. Next Steps: Provide cabinet with an agenda/plan

F. Future Meetings

Next meeting will take place on June 25th at 165 Capitol Ave Room 307.