

CWAC RACIAL EQUITY MEETING MINUTES

Department of Children & Family Services
CWAC Racial Equity

Date of Meeting: 05/24/2023
Meeting Facilitator: Dagené Brown

Time: 10am – 11:30am
Location: WebEx

1. Attendees

Name(s)

Dagené Brown (Co-chair)	Dr. Charles Montorio-Archer	LeVonda Harris	Prestina Singleton
Jasmine Mobley (Co-chair)	Damaris Acevedo	Lourdes Rodriguez	Ryan Goodwin
Ashley Deckert	Daniel Fitzgerald	Lyman Letgers	
Beatriz Valdez	Jere Murry	Mari Christopherson	
Chandler Mattison-Farris	LaTasha Roberson-Guifarro	Paula Truitt-Alohan	

2. Meeting Objective/Agenda

CWAC RE Meeting

3. Attachments & Handouts

Description	Prepared by
C:\Users\jferrn\OneDrive - Hoyleton Youth & Family Services\CWAC RE\Agendas\RE Agenda 05242023.docx	Dagené Brown
SharePoint Link to meeting: CWAC RE Meeting Link	Dagené Brown

4. Meeting Summary & Minutes

1. Welcome

a. Roll call was completed via the WebEx chat box and participant list.

2. Dagené introduced new OREP staff.

3. Approval of minutes for March 2023 was achieved once a quorum was obtained. The motion to approve the identified minutes was made by Dr. Charles Montorio-Archer. Motion moved Dr. Charles Montorio-Archer; motion seconded by LaTasha; no abstentions; all in favor. Motion carries.

4. Dagené provided committee with updates on new business.

a. Update on Blind Removal Pilot was given. Intervention and rubric for Blind Pilot Removal are currently under development. Dagené provided information Blind Pilot Removal will eliminate racial identities from intake documents to provide bias free removal. Stated the pilot will begin January 2024 in Williamson, Champaign, and DuPage. Steering committee comprised of judges, CASA, Community Based Partners, DCFS staff, and lived experts. Currently working on organizational readiness to prepare for Blind Removal Pilot roll out. No questions were asked from the group about the Blind Pilot Removal.

b. Update on Racial Disproportionality Task Force meeting provided.

5. Dagené provided committee with updates on old business.

a. Dagené provided update provided for Education Campaign. Marketing group has been identified to assist with developing five PSA clips. Per Dagené, Jere and Chris provided information to DCFS Communications to begin the work. Dagené asked for more team members to join Educational Campaign. Mary asked what the key points for the PSA's are. Dagené stated the PSA's will focus efforts on providing education for mandated reporters. Lyman offered assistance to Educational Campaign group from Casey Family Programs. Dr. Charles offered assistance for Educational Campaign efforts.

b. Dagené provided update provided for Racial Equity Toolkit. Deadline has been set for June 30th for the final draft of the toolkit. This final draft will be shared with the Racial Equity committee for feedback, input, and final decisions. Dagené stated she is utilizing the toolkit concepts for work with the Office of Child Research & Wellbeing at retreat and with Permanency Teams as well. Dagené asked for comments. Jasmine reported the toolkit supported proposal and design of racial equity project at Hoyleton. Lourdes asked "where can we get the toolkit?" Dagené responded the workgroup developing toolkit will complete assessment portion of the toolkit to utilize in specific roles within the child welfare systems.

6. Dagené shared data from racial disparities report and information from UIUC.

a. Dagené stated the two main concerns of the report is to disaggregate racial and population data to obtain information about educational success, health and behavioral health, housing, jobs, and economic, etc. and to go through data related specifically to child welfare. The report stated 2% of 15.3% of IL black children are in IL child welfare. 50% of white children are in IL population and 0.8% of white children are in child welfare. The overrepresentation of black children in child welfare does not increase at different subsequent decision points after coming into care. Report stated that black children are underrepresented in all permanency goals except guardianship. Dagené also reported racial disparity findings from caseworker interview findings. Lyman commented on one of the judge comments. Discussion held over judges comment that they are least likely to assign guardianship to grandparents for guardianship. Robin responded the comment was from the judges interviewed and discussion continued on movement from exploring guardianship as a first goal prior to adoptive options. Robin reported this was the culture of IL child welfare and is changing due to legislation to support guardianship. Heather (AOIC) commented on the differences of the use of guardianship throughout the state. Discussion continued concerning current state of child welfare culture and strategies to address data from the report. Dagené reported on current work to educate judges on the use of subsidized guardianship goals.

b. Dagené reported on transracial study. Dagené study is still in the works. Data reviewed on transracial placements for Black, Hispanic, Native American, and White youth in care.

c. Questions at the end of the report presentation. Lyman asked for a copy of the report and study. Dagené asked Robin to provide more information on the report and study. Robin stated the interviews are completed. Robin highlighted that report shows that Black children are more likely to be placed in a white home (transracial placement). Robin stated the latest reports will be shared with Dagené. Discussion continued on how transracial placements impact Black youth and how to find resources to keep families connected.

7. Dagené reported on FY23 goal progress.

a. FY 23 goals, from the charter and reported by Dagené, the toolkit and assessment combined and the final draft for the toolkit.

b. Public Campaign will remain a goal for FY24.

8. Dagené encouraged the committee to further consider other FY24 Goals. Lourdes asked if FY23 goals were completed. Dagené responded with the Education Campaign goal will continue while the toolkit will be completed. Lourdes suggested to review the studies that were discussed during the meeting (racial disparities report & transracial) to identify goals for FY24. Lyman stated he wanted to review the report to digest and discuss the report to reveal the priorities for FY24. Lyman asked if multiracial category is included in the study. Robin defined transracial. Lyman responded by stating multiracial data has skewed results in the past. Lyman stated his comments were for the disparities report and how multiracial data skews results. Lyman commented on the 60 month length of stay. Lyman encouraged the committee to review racial equity across the country to identify effective strategies moving forward. Mari commented on Texas' model of family finding which focused on black families. Mari shared a resource in the chat concerning underrepresentation in kinship care. Dagené reported there is a small team that is available by referral to assist with family finding. Dagené reminded group to formulate recommendations to lift up to full CWAC committee. Dr. Charles stated Tim Snowden reported recommendations in racial equity workgroup that would work with racial equity committee for FY24 goals. Dagené thanked Simone and Nina for presence in the committee. Lourdes stated Latina culture is not to adopt if caregiver is not biological parent and does not seek parental termination. Lourdes stated Latino community does not seek government assistance and encourages judges to be aware that adoption and terminated rights are not a culturally appropriate practice that occurs within the judicial system. Dagené stated subsidized guardianship has been suggested to the legislative boards to also be used as a permanency option.

9. Dagené discussed committee meeting dates. Levonda asked to poll committee for time and date and whether monthly or bi-monthly. If changes made, bi-laws need to be amended. Dagené reminded group of upcoming in person meeting. Dagené encouraged committee to invite others and build attendance with multidisciplinary teams.

Meeting adjourned.