

CWAC Racial Equity Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Dagene Brown, Shanquay Schaeffer, Arthur Anderson, Cady Landa, Chandler Mattison-Farris, Sylvia Fonseca, Mareema Ali, Evelyn Martinez, Jose Lopez, Lori Brown, Neva Nichols, Lourdes Rodriguez, Lyman Legters, Heather Dorsey, Katherine Ealey, Lindia Holmes, Keith Smith, Yeni Rojas, LaTasha Roberson-Guifarro

Updates

- Jere Murry has been appointed as the CWAC Co-Chair.
- Tandra Clark retired, and Reni Rojas was appointed to oversee the Race Equity Curriculum workgroup.
- The meeting minutes for May and July were not approved during this meeting due to the minimal number of voting members present.
- All FY23 RE Charter Goals have been accomplished:
 - **Goal 1:** Implicit Bias Educational campaign to educate and promote action toward racial equity in the Illinois Child Welfare Practice/System.
 - Jere Murry and Dagene Brown will be attending a production meeting on October 23rd to monitor the video production.
 - **Goal 2:** Make recommendations for amendment changes to Neglect Allegation 60.
 - Dagene Brown submitted the proposal on August 30th and is awaiting final determination.
 - **Goal 3:** Identify Race Equity Curriculum needed for Child Welfare community.
 - The RE Curriculum workgroup has identified the University of Maryland SHARP Framework as the prospective vendor and is working with DCFS Procurement to submit a Sole Source Justification form.
- The target roll-out date for the Bias-Free Child Removal Pilot Program Act is November 13, 2024. The Bias-Free Steering Committee is currently working to finalize the training curriculum and CFS forms, in addition to solidifying the pay rate for the lived experts.
- The Office of Racial Equity Practice Blueprint Action Timeline was revised on September 27th to reflect the current status of RE goals (*See: Supplemental Documents*).
 - The following goals were completed:
 - **1.2.3:** Train direct service staff on application of CQI cycle in direct service work with families.
 - **1.3.1:** Develop and conduct an Agency Anti-Racism Equity Assessment.
 - **1.4.1:** Conduct thorough review of all DCFS policies, procedures, and practices to ensuring inclusion of a racial equity lens.
 - **1.3.4:** Evaluate available racial equity curricula for all DCFS and private agency workforce personnel including CEO's, C-suite, and frontline DCFS and community-based partners workforce.

- **2.2.1:** Develop a Blind Removal pilot in three counties to determine racial disproportionality for youth of color entering system.
- The following goals have been postponed for FY25:
 - **2.3.2:** Develop court improvement strategies that are identified from focus groups designated to address racial disproportionality and disparate outcomes.
 - **1.3.2:** Strategies to enhance Agency racial equity reflected in final report are implemented.
- The following goal have been removed from the OREP Blueprint Action Timeline:
 - **1.4.2:** Draft rules, policies, and procedures are submitted to the Joint Committee on administrative Rules (JCAR), where appropriate.

Next Steps

- Dagene Brown proposed for the Committee to consider prospective charter goals for FY2025. Discussion surrounding potential goals:
 - Dagene Brown proposed to solidify an official expungement procedure for families to have “Unfounded” investigation status rulings removed from SACWIS.
 - Lourdes Rodriguez proposed for the CWAC RE group to formulate data regarding the outcome of youth in care who leave the care of DCFS, to determine future trajectory of current youth in care. LR also posed the following questions to consider:
 - What is the rate of high school graduates for youth in care?
 - How many African American youth in care are homeless?
 - Can this data be captured, and if so, how?
 - DCFS does not have the legal authority to capture this information?
 - Dagene Brown will reach out and ask for Chevelle Bailey to conduct a presentation pertaining to Education & Transition Services for the CWAC RE group.
- Dagene Brown instructed meeting participants to review the DCFS Policy and Procedure Review Report and Recommendations document, take note of recommendations from a racial equity lens, and prepare to discuss notes during the next CWAC RE meeting.

Supplemental Documents



CWAC RE Agenda
10.02.2024.docx



OREP Blueprint
Action Timeline.doc

Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM.