

CWAC RACIAL EQUITY MEETING MINUTES

Department of Children & Family Services
CWAC Racial Equity

Date of Meeting: 11/29/2023
Meeting Facilitator: Dagené Brown

Time: 10am – 11:30am
Location: WebEx

1. Attendees

Name(s)

Dagené Brown (Co-chair)	Chandler Mattison-Farris	Lourdes Rodriguez
Jasmine Mobley (Co-chair)	Jere Murry	
LaTasha Roberson-Guifarro	Sylvia Fronseca	
Yeni Rojas	Beatriz Valdez	

2. Meeting Objective/Agenda

CWAC RE Meeting

3. Attachments & Handouts

Description



RE Agenda
11292023.docx

Prepared by

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 participant list.

2. Approval of minutes for May 2023, July 2023, and September was not held because a quorum was not obtained. The committee will continue to meet in person to address quorum needs and voting items.

3. Dagené provided the committee with updates on new business.

a. Jasmine provided an overview of the Townhall Meetings held at Hoyleton. Tandra reported on personal experiences and emotions tied to disparities when dealing with the legal system. Chandler provided resources for further involvement with the legal system, such as assistance with language barriers and assisting new court users. Chandler reported on resources and training available through AOIC for racial equity.

b. Dagené provided update on international race equity training. Dagené highlighted the presentation on the American Bar Association resolution 606 and its impact. Lourdes stated she has the slide deck from the previously mentioned presentation and provided a synopsis of the presentation which provided context on the institutionalization of racism.

4. Dagené provided the committee with updates on old business.

a. Keith provided update for Racial Disproportionality Task Force. Stated there are some differences in context and understanding between the legal and child welfare systems that impact interpretation of recommendations provided. Lourdes raised discussion on disciplinary background and experiences of people engaging in race equity work. Lourdes stated a need for experience in child welfare. LaTasha responded identifying benefits of multidisciplinary teams in racial equity work.

b. Dagené provided update to Casey Family Race Equity Collaborative October 2023. Dagené stated language changes (blatant disregard) in legislature made by Texas and reviewed the changes impact to lower entries to child welfare system. Dagené provided information about the presentation provided by Texas and how this legislature change has impacted their child welfare system.

c. Question was asked about SAFE Model practice and if there is data used in the model. Dagené responded with more information on how the assessment will be utilized.

d. Dagené stated the toolkit is complete and will be voted on as soon as possible. Dagené provided update on Implicit Bias Campaign and aligned the campaign with statement from the Casey REIC October 2023 where a lived expert stated, "don't save me from my family, save my family for me". Lourdes stated a study completed 15 years ago stated children went into the system, aged out and went back home to their biological family after aging out of the system. Yeni provided experience as a case worker where disagreement with the court system impacted case worker's advocacy efforts to reunify families. Lourdes stated she is the inter-ethnic placement act monitor and can assist with specific cases where inter-ethnic placements need assistance. Latasha suggested documenting a roadmap for changes for FY24 and asked if there are targeted populations to intervene? Latasha asked if there is documentation of agencies utilizing race equity tools completed by the committee. Dagené stated there is a need for committee members to attend to vote on items that are completed and continue forward movement. Yeni provided the option of calling a special meeting or sending decision points to the executive committee to obtain approval. Dagené stated she would follow up with Kara to hold a special meeting and attempt to vote. Lourdes stated allegation 60 implies that there was intentional neglect instead of providing Norman Funds. Tandra provided clarification on allegation 60 and stated it is an open-ended catch all and provided examples (domestic violence). Lindia stated allegation 60 can also apply to an issue that does not arise to a safety issue. Continued discussion on use of Flex Funds and Norman Funds with regards to Black and Brown families. Dagené summarized the discussion on Flex Funds and Norman Funds by identifying that the practice across the state is not consistent.

5. Dagené presented FY2023 Monitoring Report of the BH Consent Decree. Dagené shared data included in the decree and explained the difference between absolute and relative RDI.

6. Dagené extended invite to recruit legal system invites and thanked committee members and participants.

7. No public comments. Next meeting is scheduled for Jan 27th 2024.

Meeting adjourned.