MEETING AGENDA
CT Kids Report Card Leadership Committee
May 12, 2015 Quarterly Meeting
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. LOB Room 1E

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs
   a. The meeting was convened at 3:08PM.
   b. Co-Chair Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman provided introductory remarks. Co-Chair David Nee reviewed the topics that were on the agenda and asked members to introduce themselves.
2. How Are Connecticut Kids Doing? *What Our Report Card Tells Us*
   a. Rep. Diana Urban provided opening remarks about the Report Card and asked members to consider topics for future meetings. Jill Jensen provided an overview of the headline indicators, secondary indicators, and the data development agenda of the safe, stable, healthy, and future success domains.
   b. Judith Meyers asked for clarification between current trends and baseline trends. Jill Jensen, Erica Bromley, and Christine Dauser explained the difference is current trends state how many years a trend has gone up, down, or flat, whereas the baseline trend is a percentage change from the first reporting year to the most current year.
   c. Rep. Urban impressed upon committee members the importance of finding a mental health indicator. Faith Vos Winkle asked if the group considered speaking with the Behavioral Health Partnership regarding children enrolled in HUSKY accessing behavioral health services. Elaine Zimmerman recommended data for home visitations being collected by the Office of Early Childhood. Ellen Shemitz asked why certain indicators covering child poverty are under future success, but others are under stable. Jill Jensen stated overlaps were identified when the working group developed these indicators.
3. What Can We Do Better? *Recommended Priorities for Action*
   a. Improve Stability: Address chronic absenteeism, obstacles to school attendance
      i. Charlene Russell-Tucker provided an informational handout discussing directives/actions by the state Board of Education to the State Department of Education (SDE). She then discussed SDE's best practices model. Looking forward, Charlene Russell-Tucker noted the chronic absenteeism strategic action group will be meeting to revise and update their action plan to incorporate early childhood.
      ii. Lt. Governor Wyman asked how SDE tracks students. Ajit Gopalakrishnan stated an identification number unique to every student allows SDE to track students who move or transfer. Faith Vos Winkle noted that the tracking can be an issue if the parent does not return their child to school when they move and asked if there is a mechanism within the strategic action group to showcase best practices. Charlene Russell-Tucker indicated a mechanism is currently being worked on.
      iii. Ellen Shemitz asked whether there is disaggregation of chronic absenteeism for disciplinary measures. Ajit Gopalakrishnan noted they do not disaggregate, but they do ask about its occurrence when they receive the data for statewide analysis. David Nee wrapped up the presentation and then introduced Michelle Riordan-Nold of the CT Data Collaborative to present the Data Mapping Pilot Project.
      iv. Michelle Riordan-Nold introduced Sasha Cuerda. He provided a background of the pilot work that has been done with the New Britain school system regarding their chronic absenteeism data map. Sasha Cuerda then discussed the process of developing the map and the variables provided by the U.S. Census. In addition to census data, Sasha Cuerda noted the potential to import other relevant data.
      v. Jill Jensen asked Sasha Cuerda if it is feasible to look identify schools with a school based health center. Sasha Cuerda stated it's feasible to enter any data-based variables that are relevant to each community.
      vi. Faith Vos Winkel asked what it would take to establish a statewide map that correlates homelessness with rates of chronic absenteeism. Sasha Cuerda noted the biggest issue is having that data available.
      vii. Judith Meyers asked about whether this program can calculate higher thresholds for chronic absenteeism. Erica Bromley replied their efforts include exploring levels of risk related to absenteeism. Ajit Gopalakrishnan stated that the risk can be calculated, but the percentage is in accordance with national definitions. He agreed that identifying subsets would be appropriate for certain interventions.
      viii. David Nee stated that it is good to understand how this tool would be utilized from the perspective of school superintendents. He also commented that New Britain has implemented a process that is triggered when a child's first absence is during the first full month of school. He stated the importance to catch the risk of chronic absenteeism at an early age.
   b. Strengthen Families and Neighborhoods : Address housing and food insecurity, risks for neglect, exposure to violence

i. Child Poverty and Prevention Council Plan

This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.

ii. Family Assessment Response (FAR) Initiative

1. Anne McIntyre-Lahner provided an introduction to FAR. Anne McIntyre-Lahner then discussed the most recent data and various updates regarding FAR. Rep. Urban stated that when we begin the drill-down of systems, we take an even deeper look at FAR in relation to current and future legislation that could impact the various mechanisms of FAR. Anne McIntyre-Lahner agreed and that the group can begin to dig into how FAR is doing on an ongoing basis.

iii. Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC)

1. Erica Bromley provided a brief summary of their work and new legislation that will extend their existence. She identified three topics of focus being incarceration, diversion, and recidivism. She noted co-chairs had challenged the team to seek aggressive goals. Erica Bromley then provided an overview of Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards.

c. Promote Children's Health: Address access to quality care, maternal and children's health risks, and behavioral health needs

i. School Based Health Centers Strategic Action Group

1. Christine Dauser opened the discussion with the strategic action group's first meeting, discussing the development of a pilot study in New Haven and New London. Bennett Pudlin highlighted data regarding children with asthma treated in a school-based health center and their absenteeism rates, the use of behavioral or mental health services at school-based health centers, and discipline that effects absenteeism. Bennett Pudlin noted that this work is a demonstration to gauge the feasibility of utilizing student ID numbers for kids registered at school-based health centers. He hopes it can be brought to the strategic action group to discuss critical questions that could help develop a statewide model. Bennett Pudlin also noted DPH has expanded data collected from school-based health centers.

ii. HUSKY Program

iii. Childhood Obesity Task Force/CHDI Obesity Prevention Initiative

iv. Children's Behavioral Health Plan (P.A. 13-178)

These topics were not discussed due to time constraints

d. Support Academic Success: Address Achievement Gap, School Readiness, Suspensions and Expulsions.

i. New SDE School Accountability System

ii. Early Childhood Office .

iii. Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards

These topics were not discussed due to time constraints

4. Other Business

a. Priorities for action.

i. David Nee identified FAR as being an item for future discussion. Anne McIntyre-Lahner agreed, but asked if we are digging into FAR as a strategy. David Nee asked her opinion on the matter. Anne McIntyre-Lahner felt it would be a strategy. She added it might be worthwhile to create a strategic action group.

ii. Judith Meyers asked for further clarification on the charge that is being proposed. David Nee clarified these priorities are an active discussion of which items before us are worthy of further discussion at future meetings. He indicated the Child Poverty Prevention Council would get chance to speak at this meeting or a future one. David Nee also indicated that there was an interest in mobility/transiency effecting youth educational outcomes, and keeping up with chronic absenteeism and behavioral health indicators.

iii. Ellen Shemitz asked in further detail how the work being proposed translates into the development of the Report Card site as a final product. David Nee stated that leadership committee meetings should focus on lifting ideas or information to the public to understand how children are faring. Ellen Shemitz responded that the leadership committee also has the ability to discuss any major trends, issues, and actions the leadership committee would take based upon those discussions to assist in delivering a final product. Rep. Urban reiterated the desire to not only get focus on areas of the Report Card for next steps, but to also ensure every active indicator in the Report Card is fully developed.

iv. Judith Meyers noted the appearance of a hierarchy of needs varying from programs and indicators that have the data for strategic focus on programs and indicators that have data challenges. She added behavioral health that is another area where we have data challenges that require more focus.

v. Jim Horan stated the need to ensure data updates reach the public. Jim Horan indicated his willingness to work with Elaine Zimmerman on the child poverty discussion for a future meeting. Faith Vos Winkle concurred with Jim Horan that it is important to keep this issue on the radar.

vi. Elaine Zimmerman raised a question about how we make the Report Card a useful tool for the public at the civic level. She added she is willing to work with Jim Horan on poverty issues. Elaine Zimmerman concluded by noting a

prior discussion with Rep. Urban on a measurement of two-generational approaches and what could be an effective indicator.

vii. Bennett Pudlin voiced his shared sentiments with Judith Meyers's point regarding data gaps, but indicated that there has been progress on expanding the available data. Bennett Pudlin believes we should place focus on retrieving data for those indicators that is lacking. Rep. Urban agreed.

viii. Maggie Addair gave an update to the committee of the OEC's development of an information system. She also commented on child poverty issues and recent data reports.

ix. David Nee indicated that the top issues he has found the group discussing to be childhood obesity, behavioral health and poverty. He also referred to the designation of FAR and school-based health centers as specific programs. Anne McIntyre-Lahner clarified the use of FAR as a strategy. Judith Meyers provided clarification about where school-based health centers could be categorized. David Nee designated FAR as a program drill down. He raised concerns about how school-based health centers relate to outcomes, a lack of background on the data, and how much of the population is covered. He added that if a correlation cannot be established initially, it should continue as an exploratory data development agenda item.

x. Mary Farnsworth noted areas of the Report Card data development agenda matches closely with the OEC's agenda and her desire to establish a data connection in the future. Bennett Pudlin asked Mary Farnsworth about sharing plans for the health component of the ECIS. Mary Farnsworth responded that they are still coming to consensus and struggling with the confidentiality aspect.

xi. David Nee identified action items:
   1. Elaine Zimmerman, Jim Horan and Ellen Shemitz to collaborate on a story behind the curve for child poverty.
   2. Anne McIntyre-Lahner was identified to work with staff at DCF to begin FAR drill down.
   3. Judith Meyers & Marilyn Calderon to work together to find an alternative indicator of childhood obesity.
   4. Christine Dauser to hold a SBHC SAG meeting and work with Judith Meyers and Marilyn Calderon to find a behavioral health indicator.

b. Data Issues
   i. Connecticut Open Data Portal and State Data Collaborative efforts
   ii. Timely health indicators/vital statistics
   iii. New academic performance testing and school readiness measures
   iv. Development of behavioral health indicators

These topics were not discussed due to time constraints

c. Date for next quarterly meeting
   i. The date for the next meeting is likely to be in the Fall with a focus on chronic absenteeism.
   ii. David Nee stated he would like to end on a fundamental discussion we may wish to touch upon at the next meeting, and that would be if it is all working and we are all headed towards these goals that we ask ourselves if it is good enough.

5. Adjourn

a. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02PM.

b.