

# Children's RBA Report Card Working Group

## MINUTES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Co-Chairs: Rep. Diana Urban and Sen. Terry Gerratana

Attended by: Robin Cohen (OLR), Terry Edelstein (CCPA), Astread Ferron-Poole (DSS), Karen Foley –Schain (Children's Trust Fund), Sherry Filiatreault (Norwich Children First/School Readiness Council), David Garvey (UConn Nonprofit Leadership Program), Agit Gopalakrishnan (SDE), Brian Hill (CSSD), Jill Jensen (PRI), Anne McIntyre-Lahner (DCF), Jeanne Milstein (Child Advocate), Chris Perillo (OFA), Bennett Pudlin (The Charter Oak Group), Orlando Rodriguez (CT Voices for Children), Susan Smith (DCF), Susan Walkama (Wheeler Clinic)

Meeting was called to order at 2:20 pm.

Rep. Urban and Sen. Gerratana welcomed everyone and noted others will be joining as the group continues. Rep. Urban explained that the report card will be a living document.

Rep. Urban gave a brief overview of Results-Based Accountability (RBA). She emphasized what sets it apart, other than the focus on data, is its positive approach – it fosters a cooperative effort because there is agreement about ultimate results.

At Rep. Urban's request, Anne McIntyre-Lahner briefly discussed DCF response to PRI 2009 RBA Report and current agency use of RBA as a way to keep agency outcome focused, to use data to improve quality and get better results for children.

During the general discussion, the following points were made:

David Garvey: Based on experience with nonprofit data/data collaborative project, this group should be careful of "analysis paralysis". May be a good idea to run sample data to test which indicators are best.

Bennett Pudlin; Asked what age group is the target populations – birth to 18? If so, the group needs to think about different indicators for different age groups (e.g., birth to 9, 10 and older). Also, noted that a lot of work on younger children already has been done by Early Childhood Cabinet and will be continuing.

Jeanne Milstein: Asked how the report card will be measuring quality assurance and monitoring cost-shifting, as well as costs and quality in general. In her experience, past efforts haven't always done a good job measuring success of programs and systems in terms of matching children's needs and services funded.

Rep. Urban noted the group will have the benefit of the experience of the Early Childhood Cabinet and The Speaker's Task Force on Children in the Recession, which have been helped by the Commission on Children, and outside experts like Ken Land from Duke and Bruce Lesley of First Focus.

Terry Edelstein: Suggested a review of various data systems agencies have – DSS, DCF, BHP, CSSD and see how data link up and how are data reported by providers used.

Before adjourning, Rep. Urban asked everyone to think about suggestions for indicators of a stable living environment and any other primary and secondary indicators they believe would be useful, as well as possible data sources. Everyone should also think about whether to break up into subcommittees now, or wait until after January – which she thinks might be best.

Rep. Urban and Sen. Gerratana thanked everyone for coming and announced the next meeting would be in approximately two weeks. Everyone will be sent email notices and information about meetings and any materials will be available shortly on the Select Committee on Children's website.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.