

CHILDREN'S RBA REPORT CARD WORKING GROUP

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2, 2011

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

Attended by: Ajit Gopalakrishnan (SDE), Lucy Nolan (End Hunger CT!), Karen Foley-Schain (Children's Trust Fund), Susan Walkama (Wheeler Clinic), Jeanne Milstein (OCA), Martha Stone (Center for Children's Advocacy), Linda Trebiacci (Parent Advocate), Susan R. Smith (DCF), Jill Jensen (LPRI), Brian Hill (Judicial—CSSD), Christine Dauser (CCPA rep, Yale Child Study Center), Robert Cotto, Jr. (CT Voices), Jake Siegel (for Alexandra Dufresne)(CT Voices), Elaine Zimmerman (CT Commission on Children), David M. Nee (William C. Graustein Memorial Fund), James Farnam (Farnam Associates/CT Data Collaborative), Bennett Pudlin (Charter Oak Group), Rob Aseltine (UCHC), Terri Drew (Stamford YSB), Nick Kepple (S.E. CT Probate Court)

Research Staff: Robin Cohen, OLR

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM.

Rep. Urban and Sen. Gerratana welcomed everyone. Elaine Zimmerman alerted the group of the availability of *The Social State of Connecticut*.

Sen. Gerratana mentioned that she had contacted other state agencies to get their representatives in the group. Rep. Urban welcomed the new members who were present.

Rep. Urban brought up Bennett Pudlin's question regarding the age range that the card will cover and indicated that the feedback from group members was overwhelmingly birth to 18, as opposed to a more limited 9-18 focus.

Brian Hill discussed "Raise the Age" and referred the group to his handout on juvenile jurisdiction.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of including 18- to 24-year-olds, especially after the foster child informational hearing. Rep. Urban indicated that a statutory change would be necessary to include those individuals over age 18.

The group turned next to the working draft. Sen. Gerratana said that she was concerned about the absence of infant mortality as an indicator. Elaine Zimmerman agreed that it was important to include this.

Rep. Urban pointed to the article in the New London Day about the education gap. She also encouraged the group to look at the handout from the Commonwealth Fund entitled “Connecticut KIDS Well-being Report Card.”

Jeanne Millstein said that Children with Special Health Care Needs was missing for both age cohorts and wanted them included.

SusanWalkama wanted to be sure that children with severe emotional disturbances, not just depression, are included.

Brian Hill presented the findings from the Raise the Age committee.

The group broke into smaller subgroups to more closely examine the indicators identified thus far in the four areas, including: SAFE, HEALTHY, STABLE, AND FUTURE SUCCESS.

The groups reported out to the full working group.

Karen Foley-Schain was the spokesperson for SAFETY. Sen. Gerratana shared the HEALTH group’s discussions. Jill Jensen shared the ideas from the STABILITY group, and Brian Hill reported on the FUTURE SUCCESS discussion. The spokespersons agreed to put all of these discussions into emails and share with the whole group.

Rep. Urban ended by asking the group if it wanted to also look at 19- to 24-year-olds and the group responded affirmatively.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.