

Children's Report Card Working Group Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Attendees: David Nee, Co-Chair; Rep. Diana Urban, Co-Chair; Rhonda Evans, Connecticut Association for Community Action; Judith Meyers, CHDI; Fredericka Wolman, DCF; Elizabeth Duryea, DCF; Anne McIntyre-Lahner, DCF; Christine Dauser, Yale Child's Study Center; Brian Hill, CT Judicial Branch; Yamuna Menon, ConnCAN; Ajit Gopalakrishnan, SDE; Sergio Rodriguez, SDE; Nitza Diaz, SERC; Bennett Pudlin, The Charter Oak Group, CT Data Collaborative; Faith Vos Winkel, OCA; Peter Palermino, DSS; Elaine Zimmerman, CT COC; Krystal Rich, CT Children's Alliance; Subira Gordon, AAAC; Kathleen Costello, OCA

I. CONVENE MEETING

- a. Meeting convened at 2:13 PM.

II. REMARKS

- a. David Nee noted Co-Chair Rep. Urban would be running late due to a meeting conflict. Additionally, he made opening remarks regarding the purpose of the working group and the status of the online representation of the Report Card.
- b. Jill Jensen welcomed members and provided a worksheet for the working group to use during their breakout sessions. Jill Jensen and Alessandra Burgett presented the website to the working group in its current iteration.
- c. Elaine Zimmerman commented on the purpose of the Report Card and its use. Jill Jensen indicated that parent and community groups have been considered to provide feedback. Bennett Pudlin noted that the domain teams would want consultation before finalizing recommendations. He requested a reasonable time period to organize, study, and share data with other partners so they may weigh in. The Co-Chairs responded that all feedback would needed by January 15th.
- d. Rep. Urban and David Nee reiterated the purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the working group to suggest edits and areas for improvement.
- e. Jill Jensen presented the rest of the website. She concluded her remarks by having each domain team leader (Erica Bromley, Stable Domain; Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Safe Domain; Christine Dauser, Healthy; Brian Hill, Future Success) introduce themselves and divide themselves into their domains for a one hour work session.

III. WORKING GROUP SESSION & DISCUSSION

- a. The group session concluded and the meeting was reconvened. David Nee recommended each team leader provide a two minute summary of their group discussion. Rep. Urban added that there was a section on the worksheet provided for recommended action each group can submit.

- b. Christine Dauser (Healthy Domain) highlighted bar graphs rather than line graphs as defaults. Source citations for the stories behind data were also recommended to further understand the data. Regarding indicators, Christine Dauser mentioned continuing discussion regarding whether to report data on birth weight or as either low birth weight or healthy birth weight and that full term gestational age has shifted. Christine noted they would need feedback from DPH and the Maternal Health Group to clarify how the national data is reported. Select areas of data were either noted by the team as: missing, inaccurate, or not updated. The Healthy Domain group also decided to hold off deciding whether they need both asthma prevalence and asthma related visits as indicators. The final key recommendation was to use Blue and Yellow health forms to get data on BMI.
- c. Erica Bromley (Stable Domain) stated there was discussion regarding the concept, definition, and scope of stability. There is a continued struggle to find significant data that defines stability from the perspective of parents and children. A recommendation was made to change indicator language to align with census data regarding households where both parents are unemployed in order to get more data. Another recommendation was to combine renters and homeowners spending 30% of income on housing into a single indicator. The group felt that data on free and reduced lunch eligibility would be sufficient over using SNAP participation or both. High school students who ate with their families and high school students who have love and support were noted as providing a well-rounded indication of how youth are feeling in terms of stability. A new indicator was suggested by the group; children that live in a household where neither parent has a high school diploma. Erica Bromley spoke further about the ability to measure community stability, its effects on a family's stability and how that might look. Possible access to transportation and multi-generational housing data was noted. There was also discussion of an upcoming strengthening family model and the data that could be collected through that. Finally, they considered adjusting the language of the domain title as a definition of strong and stable families.
- d. Anne McIntyre-Lahner (Safe Domain) stated there were three recommendations from their working group. The first was to consider a couple new indicators, noting struggles to find a good indicator substance abuse and whether it would be in the Safe or Stable Domain. Anne McIntyre-Lahner noted Kids Count would compile data regarding safe neighborhoods. The second recommendation noted there were multiple disaggregates for abuse and neglect that make the graph difficult to discern. Two suggestions were made to clean up the data; break up the data into two indicators (rate of abuse and rate of neglect) and to get rid of the all-inclusive age range. Anne McIntyre-Lahner felt that before this recommendation was made final that their group would need to go through the indicator more thoroughly and said they would coordinate via email. The final recommendation regarded high school students who did not feel safe, which has no disaggregations. The group thought it would be helpful to have any kind of disaggregation for this data. Erica Bromley interjected that the Stable group had considered transferring the children in out-of-home placements indicator from their domain to Safe. Anne McIntyre-Lahner responded that the indicator is seen

by DCF as a performance measure. Rep. Urban asked Ms. McIntyre-Lahner to clarify whether she felt the indicator was a population level indicator. Ms. McIntyre-Lahner replied that DCF feels the data should be reported, but not utilized as a population level indicator. Rep. Urban noted that she did not want the measure to get lost, to which Erica Bromley responded she would not transfer it from Stable to Safe if it would be lost. Anne McIntyre-Lahner said that it might make sense for it to be looked at as a system performance measure under safety. David Nee noted the goal of DCF to reduce the number of children in placement and inquired as to how many children are currently under placement in DCF. Anne McIntyre-Lahner responded that roughly 3,990 children are currently in placement, down from roughly 7,000 in January of 2011. Rep. Urban reiterated her desire for the data to be considered as a population level indicator. Bennet Pudlin interjected that a true population indicator would look at kids who were in placements that included DCF, juvenile justice system, and medical/educational complications. He noted it is difficult and complex to get a comprehensive view and that DCF is a proxy for the overall population, which is at risk of being misinterpreted and needs clarification. David Nee expressed appreciation at the candid discussion and Bennet's suggestion to develop a cross-domain data development agenda, but felt there was a need to move the conversation forward.

- e. Brian Hill (Future Success) stated that the most important measure among their indicators was third graders scoring at or above the Connecticut Mastery Test reading goal. However, the change in the test has brought a break in their trend line, a new story to develop, and a new way to measure. A recommendation was made to add five-year and six-year graduation cohorts as secondary indicators. Brian announced that Elaine Zimmerman offered to write the "Story Behind the Curve" for children living in poverty and to collaborate with the Poverty and Prevention Council to work on this story, look at strategies and partners. The group also felt that it would be helpful to build on the poverty indicator by looking at concentrations of poverty by location. Brian noted kindergartners needing substantial instructional support data would stop after 2013 because data is being referred to the OEC instead of the SDE. The group also discussed using student performance index data as a possible indicator of future success. The discussion was wrapped up by introducing the concept of two generation data in order to look at it as kids and adults instead of looking at the data as kids or adults. Brian finalized that with new members and the span between meetings that there was still a lot of work to do. Rep. Urban commented that it would be good for the group to look at forecast values and target values, but that it could be done between the members by email.
- f. Mr. Nee thanked everyone for their attendance and continued efforts.
- g. Members were reminded of the January 15th deadline for final feedback.

IV. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM.