

CT Kids Report Card Work Group Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
10:00 AM in Room 1E of the LOB

1. Remarks by the Chairs
 - a. The meeting was convened at 10:04 AM
 - b. Rep. Diana Urban provided a summary of the agenda. Sen. Dantè Bartolomeo introduced herself to the working group and indicated she is looking forward to learning about and helping the Report Card move forward.
2. CT Kid's Report Card Presentation
 - a. Rep. Urban presented the CT Kid's Report Card website page layout to members of the working group. She described what visitors to the website would see and how to navigate the website. Rep. Urban indicated the mission statement is the driving force to help the public understand the goals that define each domain (Stable, Safe, Healthy, and Future Success). She went on to discuss the benefits of using Results Based Accountability (RBA), specifically the ability to get from talk to action quickly, speaking in plain language, and going across silos to improve performance.
 - b. Anne McIntyre-Lahner indicated for the headline indicator of the Stable domain, chronic absenteeism, race and lunch status are key disaggregations. She went on to the Safe domain's headline indicator, rates of abuse and neglect, and pointed out that children are substantially more likely to be neglected than abused in CT. Anne McIntyre-Lahner also provided information regarding the age categories and how the rates of abuse and neglect change in each category. Younger children are substantially more likely to be neglected than abused compared to older children. She then moved onto the headline indicator of the Healthy domain, low birth-weight babies. Anne McIntyre-Lahner noted the racial disaggregations, with Black, Hispanic, and Other race babies being more likely to be born at a low weight compared to white babies. She then presented the headline indicator for the Future Success domain, which is the percentage of 3rd graders scoring at or above goal in reading. She reiterated that the numbers broken out tell a better story when disaggregated by race and students with free/reduced lunch. Rep. Whitt Betts asked if they are able to identify whether the children with these scores are in single or dual parent households. Anne McIntyre-Lahner responded that they cannot. Rep. Urban stated that she hopes data like that will be possible when the website is more fully established and they can drill down into the programs that directly impact children and families.
 - c. Erica Bromley, team leader of the Stable domain, discussed how the state agencies and local partners were involved in the process of explaining the story behind Connecticut's chronic absenteeism data. She noted this data is very new to Connecticut due to the focus in past on attendance averages. She noted that the State Department of Education (SDE) has made chronic absenteeism a crucial issue and will commit to expanding and improving the data collection. Erica Bromley then discussed the impact chronic absenteeism has on the educational achievement of the chronically absent child. Once all the data and analysis has been done, we need to explore what is working, what practices are promising, and how we can make collective impacts at the state/local level. There will be additional focus to look at the Alliance District data based on their recently released funding that is specified for targeting chronic absenteeism rates.
 - d. Anne McIntyre-Lahner discussed the data for abuse and neglect, reiterating the substantiated claims have overwhelmingly been for cases of neglect instead of abuse. She noted the many factors that can impact a case of neglect coming to DCF, including poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, lack of employment/housing stability, etc. DCF has taken this information to see whether their dollars are being spent to maximize positive changes and found they were funding more dollars towards efforts to reduce abuse rather than neglect. She then highlighted the adoption of a Differential Response System (DRS) in Connecticut, which they have given the name Family Assessment Response (FAR). This system takes in information and places low risk families into community services rather than an allegation and full DCF investigation. Anne-McIntyre Lahner indicated that they are working on a report card for FAR. She was able to indicate though that roughly 600 families were serviced through FAR with a wide variety of needs and that the families were appropriately referred to programs or services and completed them successfully. She stated that while the data is preliminary, they believe the results will also show a vast majority of families improved upon those identified issues, reducing their likelihood of being referred to DCF again. They will continue to have constant tracking of progress for FAR and the programs/services families are referred to in order to understand who the families are and identifying them earlier. Anne McIntyre-Lahner highlighted that DCF's strategic action plan has utilized the mission statement from the CT Kid's Report Card, as well as indicators developed by the report card to identify their role in reaching this results statement.
 - e. Brian Hill discussed the declining population of referrals to juvenile justice despite expanding the age range. Instead, community-based services have become the norm as both effective for the child and cost-effective for the state. He stated that many in the judicial branch have come to find the tracking data and outcome data regarding how well they've done and if anyone is better off has been crucial. As they move forward, the judicial branch uses this continued decline to create projections so that current resources can be repurposed for those populations with the greatest need. The introduction of RBA to the judicial branch has also assisted them towards understanding the various factors that are likely impacting annual spikes or drops in referrals. Rep. Urban stated that RBA should not only inspire activism for changes in policies or new money for programs that work, but scrutinize programs that either don't work or need to be revisited so they can make the biggest impact to the population.
 - f. Christine Dauser reiterated the importance of analyzing the ethnic/racial disaggregations to see the disparities regarding low birth weight. She noted these disparities place a substantial financial toll on families in addition to the impact it has on the hospitals and the larger healthcare market. Christine Dauser noted the birth weight of the child is the first major indicator towards understanding a child's outcome, as physical health plays a direct role towards creating other issues.
 - g. Erica Bromley provided a summary of data regarding student-aged arrests in the town of Manchester. Based on a rising percentage of youth being arrested, the superintendent developed a collaborative and an agreement with the local police department and juvenile court judges to address these arrests, as well as exclusionary discipline. The collaborative sought to create new policies/programs/guidelines and promote them to the front lines who directly interact with youth on a daily basis. They rolled out their initiative called Manchester Agencies, Police and Schools Collaborative (MAPS) in the

2011-2012 school year. They found the arrests from 2010-2011 school year to 2011-2012 were decreased by an average of 77%. Erica Bromely went on to say that because of this success, the initiative is being sustained at the town level. This process is a part of a larger effort to take preventative measures and early interventions to reduce longer-term costs, especially when it has been noted by a number of studies that youth with early involvement in the juvenile justice system are at greater risk of further involvement.

- h. Rep Urban identified the next steps for the CT Kid's Report Card, which include: updating data and indicators to be published online and publishing headline indicators. Jill Jensen then discussed the efforts needed to update and compile the data on a continual basis so disaggregation is consistent. She added that they are also seeking strategies to maintain this site and the various efforts at a low/no-cost. She added that one of the more glamorous next steps for the CT Kid's Report Card is the formation of strategic action groups. These action groups would interpret the data, come up with some strategies, and suggest programs that could be implemented to address the problems we are finding. She noted a signup sheet was being passed around to collect contact information from the members and gauge interest in specific areas that could become strategic action groups or those task forces already tackling a similar issue.
3. Input from Working Group Members
 - a. David Nee brought up the Graustein Foundation's Discovery initiative in relation to school readiness and achieving age-appropriate reading level goals. They provide planning grants to dozens of communities. These plans are done with an RBA format and framework. He invited the working group and any legislative members on February 28th to visit their peer-to-peer sessions with Discovery communities. David Nee believes this community will get a chance to see the CT Kid's Report Card and for those communities to share their experiences implementing this initiative to the working group and legislators.
 - b. Rep. Urban continued with the presentation of the next steps, noting the establishment of an executive implementation team, action teams, and developing interdisciplinary teams for each project were on the horizon as future projects.
 - c. Rep. Urban noted that the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) and the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) would provide supplemental services and partnership to the CT Kid's Report Card through the Committee on Children. She then reiterated the desire for members around the table to consider where they feel they would best serve to move the CT Kid's Report Card and RBA process forward.
 - d. Lucy Nolan indicated that schools that offer school breakfasts either in classroom or take when they go to the classroom have less absenteeism. End Hunger Connecticut has report cards that detail the District Reference Groups (DRG) that have these programs and correlating participation rates.
4. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM