

Meeting Minutes
Commission on Children & Select Committee on Children
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
10:00AM in Room 2-E of the LOB

1. Welcome: George Coleman, Chair
 - A. The meeting was convened at 10:00AM.
 - B. George Coleman introduced two new members to the Commission: Jonathan Blake and Judge Carol Wolven.
2. Review and vote on minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting
 - A. George Coleman called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Remembrance of the 9/11 attacks and their impact on children and families
 - A. George Coleman spoke on the significance of the eleventh anniversary of the September 11th attacks. He stated it is important to understand the children brought up during this time period. He then asked a moment of silence. Then Kevin Flood showcased a video recorded on November 14th, 2001 followed by a montage of quotes from CT children.
4. Building the Children's Report Card, a data-based tool for tracking the health, safety, stability, & future success of CT children
 - A. Overview and status report by Representative Diana Urban, Co-chair, Select Committee on Children.
 - i. Rep. Urban summarized the importance of the Report Card, its purpose and the implementation RBA.
 - B. Report from the Children's Report Card Working Group:
 - i. Stability: Erica Bromley, Director, Manchester Youth Service Bureau
 1. Erica Bromley provided a brief summary of the working group membership, their tasks, and their goals. She noted that the definition of stability is an ongoing conversation, as it encompasses a number of potential indicators or factors for the child and family, as well as their environment. Erica Bromley then identified those indicators with data that have a correlation with stability. She noted that they found less data than they hoped for these indicators. Erica Bromley went on to highlight students who are chronically absent, which is the stable domain's headline indicator.
 - ii. Safe: Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Program Director, Department of Children and Families
 1. Anne McIntyre-Lahner noted the headline indicators and secondary indicators for the Safe domain. She stated there is a level of overlap that the Commission will observe for the various indicators towards establishing the entire wellbeing of the child. She highlighted the various data resources that are used to develop these indicators. She then provided an in-depth discussion of abuse and neglect data, the disaggregations and the story behind the data for this particular indicator and specifically defined the difference between abuse and neglect.
 - iii. Healthy: Christine Dauser, Director, Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic for Children
 1. Christine Dauser noted the headline indicators and secondary indicators for the Healthy domain, as well as the limits on data accessibility for these indicators. She then delved into the low-birthweight indicator, including the disaggregations, risks, and the impact of improving the rate of low birthweights to medical center costs and long-term health changes.
 - iv. Future Success: Brian Hill, Deputy Director for Administration, Court Support Services Division
 1. Brian Hill noted the process of identifying and establishing headline indicators and secondary indicators for the Future Success domain. Brian Hill then discussed in depth childhood reading proficiency by the third grade and its disaggregations. He went on to discuss the data for the remaining primary and secondary indicators of the Future Success domain.
 - C. Response panel discussion:
 - i. Dr. M. Alex Geertsma commented on the importance of understanding the quality of healthcare for children in addition to access. He noted that it is important to focus on subgroups that lag with receiving healthcare, as well as understanding the limited resources that are partially impacted by the lack of coordination. Dr. Geertsma then discussed the low birthweight indicator in depth regarding its impact, as well as the impact obesity plays in future chronic disease/illness.
 - ii. Elaine Zimmerman noted from a figure recently released that the state spends roughly \$197 million per year on unnecessary hospitalizations, which includes those children born at a low or very low birthweight.
 - iii. Dr. Jose Colon-Rivas noted the city of Hartford is also engaged in RBA with similar partners. He highlighted this report card as well as the city's report card both placing a focus on early childhood enrollment and access to education programs. He stated the key aspect of understanding this indicator is connecting the data and the standards for development so that increased access also means increased quality by training educators on connecting the dots with basic RBA training. He stated the biggest impact the CT Kid's Report Card could make is informing parents why RBA is important for them and their communities/schools.
 - iv. Kimberly Fontaine stated that from a parent's prospective it is important to know that state agencies are readily able to share data that can better inform parents, especially when it comes to state tax dollars, Education Cost Sharing grants, and municipal tax dollars. Elaine Zimmerman asked Kimberly how it would be best to get this information to other parents. Kimberly Fontaine responded actively communicating with the local Boards of Education is a first step. She also stated the website's ease of accessibility and the general interface will largely impact how easily parents can find the data and subsequently apply it to their specific community.
 - v. Officer Glenn Felton, School Resource Officer (SRO), noted that the information and data that has been made available is important for school resource officers to bring back to their districts when speaking with administration and local boards of education. Elaine noted that turning the curve for the purposes of RBA is often providing preventative policies and strategies, highlighting them, and duplicating them as a district/state/national model.
 - vi. Officer Caleb Lopez, Youth Services Officer, stated that he appreciates the efforts RBA is doing because a large part of their jobs when working with children/families is to be a central source of information and contacts when they need specific assistance or services. He concluded his remarks by stating that data like this and creating

stories behind the data can make it easier for parents and officers to directly interpret the data and act on it to improve communities.

- vii. Donna Labbe, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative, provided remarks regarding the challenges and process the town of Torrington went through to establish RBA. She stated with so many communities looking to adopt the RBA model, it is important for the state to establish this process as well to strengthen connections between local/state leaders. She also noted their organization's difficulty establishing a concrete behavioral/mental health indicator for their youth.
- viii. Elaine Zimmerman reiterated the commission's message that the CT Kid's Report Card and any data hub like it needs to be actively and frequently showcased to various leaders across the state to boost traffic and boost interest. The Report Card also needs to ensure its interface is easy for anyone to navigate and that the data is explained in a way that anyone from any background can understand of what the data means.

5. Other business

- A. George Coleman thanked the members of the CT Kid's Report Card Working group for their presentations and the members of the commission for their active discussion. He stated it is important for this group and others to continue focusing on preventative and non-intrusive intervention measures. He noted the purpose of RBA is not to simply restate the problem on an annual basis, but to solve them so future reports show a more positive picture and what has been done. George Coleman went on to indicate the importance of showing impact within the stories behind the data so families understand the importance of the data, RBA, and how we turn the curve on a state, local, community and individual basis. He noted that the next meeting would cover the literacy status for parents and children and highlighting the value of literacy.

6. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56AM.