

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency

The Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Room 204 on May 17, 2013.

Those in attendance were:

Paul Bourdoulous, Troy Brown, Linda Cimino, Esther Harris, Shawna Woodard, Alison Zawadski

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 by Paul Bourdoulous.

1. Welcome.
2. Introduction of guest speaker Matthew DelCiampo, PhD. Candidate in ethnomusicology.
3. The minutes from the meeting on March 15, 2013 were unanimously approved.
4. Paul gave an update regarding the Community Presentation on Islam given by Ada Monsoor, which was a huge success. The Judicial Branch has forged a relationship with the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut with the Supreme Court honoring them at Law Day and the Coalition is also scheduled to address the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity, which is chaired by Justice Harper. The Committee also discussed ways to market the Community Presentations to get the best turnout by describing how the information provided by the speakers will influence employees in their work.
5. The Committee discussed creating a plan to be presented to the Chief Justice regarding Cultural Competency training and other Committee activities. A draft will be presented to the Committee at the June meeting. This plan could serve as a road map or strategic plan for the Committee including the training curriculum, feedback from the last year of training and a plan for how to move forward including the resources needed, i.e. trainers.
6. Esther Harris informed the Committee that Asher D'Alermo will be giving a presentation at this year's jury conference regarding Latino culture. Mr. D'Alermo is a presenter for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' cultural competency cohort training.
7. Magistrate Grossman and a legal aid attorney had given a presentation to CSSD family relations counselors regarding the culture of poverty. It was understood that Support Enforcement Services has developed "Culture of Poverty" training. Several members requested to attend the next offering. Shawna Woodard will contact Cristina Johnson for more information.
8. Troy Brown informed the group that CSSD has established a Cultural Competency unit with a supervisor and two staff as part of the training academy. This unit will be able to do office-by-office assessments to gauge cultural competence.
9. CSSD has discussed bringing back Diversity Day and the idea was quickly adopted by the Committee to recommend a branch-wide celebration. The Committee will include this in its plan to the Chief Justice.

10. Shawna Woodard reminded the Committee that members are responsible for reporting back to their unit's Directors on the work being done by the Committee.
11. Presentation by Matthew DelCiampo, a PhD. candidate at Florida State University in ethnomusicology who studies musical roots in the US. His presentation was about studying the history of music's origins to help provide an understanding of the culture where the music is made. The presentation was considered for use as a "Brown Bag" during Diversity Day.
12. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.