

Minutes

Public Service and Trust Commission Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency September 16, 2011

The Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Room 204, on September 16, 2011.

Those in attendance were: Hon. Richard A. Robinson (chair), Eileen Meehan (vice chair), Paul Bourdoulous, Karen Chorney, Esther Harris, Precious Hyland, Richard Loffredo, Ines Nieves, and Phil Strambler.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

1. The minutes from the meeting on June 17, 2011 were unanimously approved.
2. The Survey/Focus Group Subcommittee reported out. The Subcommittee proposed that the focus groups go forward in November. The Subcommittee selected ten teams to conduct the focus groups. Each team will be assigned a Judicial District to conduct a focus group for line staff. The focus groups for managers/supervisors would be done regionally. The Subcommittee proposed that the next meeting of the Committee be devoted to conducting a mock focus group of the Committee members, followed by a debriefing. This would allow the individuals who are conducting the focus groups the opportunity to learn from others.

The Committee discussed the pros/cons of providing the Committee's working definition of cultural competency to the focus group participants.

It was decided that a pilot focus group should be conducted in October. This will allow the Committee to regroup and work out any issues before doing the November focus groups.

3. The Website Subcommittee reported out. Phil made the changes to the website that were discussed at the last meeting. The Committee's working definition of cultural competency will be added to the page.
4. Judge Robinson asked that the members begin thinking about developing a mission statement for the committee.
5. An issue was raised regarding the size and commitment level of the committee. Following discussion, the Committee reached a consensus that the size of the committee was not the issue. There may, however, be an issue with the level of participation of some members. This issue will be addressed.
6. Judge Robinson will be speaking to the Rhode Island judiciary regarding cultural

competency.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50