

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 September 19, 2014.

Those in attendance were:

Isabel Alvarez, Troy Brown, Karen Chorney, Stephen Ment, Esther Harris, Precious Hyland, Cristina Johnson, Phil Strambler, Ewa Wojewodzki, Shawna Woodard, Alison Zawadski.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Shawna Woodard, who explained that Justice Robinson was in court and unable to attend.

1. The minutes from the July 18, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Diversity Day/Week:
 - Shawna Woodard opened the discussion by identifying course instructors.
 - Stephen Ment and Alison Zawadski presented the need on October 20, 2014 at the LOB for room helpers, greeters, those introducing invited speakers, and people to set up equipment. A chart was distributed showing committee member's assignments to specific tasks. Alison and Stephen will update the chart as information continues to become available and will distribute final assignments within a few weeks.
 - Troy Brown addressed the need to obtain equipment and access requests for presentations held at Project MORE in New Haven. He, Shawna and Precious Hyland will be coordinating this effort.
3. Foundations of Cultural Responsiveness – Train the Trainer:
 - A 3-day training program was just concluded, with Philip Strambler, Precious Hyland and Karen Chorney among the participants. Philip volunteered that Troy and Daisy do an amazing job and make it look easy, and Karen indicated it will be tough to emulate them.
 - Troy emphasized the focus on critical thinking, processing and debriefing. He offered access to ongoing classes for those who have graduated the training program.
 - Team meetings are being considered beginning next year to make the facilitators of this program a cohesive group.

4. What's Happening:

- Website –
Precious, Phil and Paul Bourdoulous are working on the redesign; Phil will send a link to committee members for a preview; Alison Zawadski offered to inquire about the committee's status on the External Affairs priority list for graphic design work.
- Community Symposium –
Troy Brown announced that "How to be Heard", a cross cultural community symposium, will be held on October 23, 2014 at the CT Convention Center. The full-day event is free.
- The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is recruiting participants for the Cultural Competency Cohort training. The applicant package has been distributed to state organizations, graduated participants, and other interested parties. The next cohort will begin in October.
- Troy Brown expressed gratitude for the committee's support of CSSD's Hispanic Heritage Celebration and indicated that photos are available for anyone who would like to see them.

5. New Business:

There was no new business to be discussed.

6. Adjourn:

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency will be held on October 17, 2014 at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield in room 204.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.