

1Minutes
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 October 19, 2012.

Those in attendance were:

Committee members: Hon. Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Troy Brown, Laura DiFelice, Esther Harris, Precious Hyland, Cristina Johnson, Ines Nieves, Daisy Ortiz, Philip Strambler, and Shawna Woodard.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by committee Chair, the Honorable Richard A. Robinson.

1. Welcome.
2. The minutes from the meeting on September 19, 2012 were unanimously approved.
3. A draft Executive Summary, which will be posted on the website, was distributed for review and comment, to be returned by Friday, October 26, 2012.
4. Cristina Johnson reported that two Support Enforcement Services employees are attending the DMHS Cultural Competency Cohort.
5. Cristina Johnson presented her research into a speakers list. They are community resources who may be invited to speak to the branch on specific topics related to cultural competency. She will send the list to the committee members, who are tasked with identifying the five topics that they would like to see addressed first.
6. Troy Brown, Laura DiFelice, Daisy Ortiz, and Shawna Woodard updated the committee on the third cohort of *Foundations of Cultural Competency 100*. There were 30 CSSD attendees consisting of new Family Relations Counselors and Juvenile Probation Officers. The trainers and observers discussed the success of the training but also modifications that they would like to see developed. The training was in part CSSD specific and the concern was to modify if for rollout to the entire Branch. Additionally, one of the videos used was felt not to be as useful for the Judicial Branch as a whole, and that a video specific to the criminal justice system was necessary. It was felt that Judicial should look into developing its own video.
7. In new business, Troy Brown brought information on the CSSD activities during Hispanic Heritage Month. The activities were developed by employees, with the support of management. The sense of the Committee was that employees who want to organize activities around cultural groups should run this by the committee to ensure the appropriateness of the activities.

- 8.** Also under new business, the committee discussed how gender identification is addressed in such areas as cellblocks and data collection in existing systems, such as CMIS, CORRECTIONS AND DSS. CRISTINA Johnson had a copy of the DOC policy which she will distribute. The Advisory Committee would like to continue this discussion and explore this matter further.
- 9.** The next meeting will be November 16, 2012, at 10:00, in room 204 at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield.

The meeting was adjourned at 11: 10 a.m.