

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 November 21, 2014.

Those in attendance were:

Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Isabel Alvarez, Paul Bourdoulous, Troy Brown, Karen Chorney, Linda Cimino, Esther Harris, Phil Strambler, Ewa Wojewodzki, Shawna Woodard, Alison Zawadski.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

1. The minutes from the October 17, 2014 meeting of the full committee, and minutes from the September 30, 2014 and October 31, 2014 meetings of the Diversity Day Subcommittee, were unanimously approved.
2. The resignation of Stephen Ment from the committee was noted with regret by the members of the committee, who also congratulate him on his recent promotion to Director of Legislative Affairs, in the External Affairs Division.
3. FCR 100 and Train the Trainer: The calendar for the 2015 sessions is in final draft form, with the intent of presenting FCR two times per month, with the current class of trainers paired with existing staff. Some seats will be offered in 2015 to non-CSSD staff, with the intent that by 2016 there will be enough trainers to offer FCR in their own divisions.
4. The meeting schedule for 2015 has been decided with meetings every other month on Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Room 204 at 225 Spring Street has been reserved for January 27, March 24, May 26, July 28, September 22, and November 24, 2015.
5. The committee discussed recruiting new members of the committee and the Diversity Day Subcommittee. Two new members of the full committee have been accepted and will be added for the next meeting: Juanita Halepas and Samuel Bruder. Shawna Woodard will notify them. Further discussion will be on the agenda for the next meeting to determine how many additions to the full committee and the Diversity Day Subcommittee, how recruitment should be conducted, how to determine which entities need representation, and how to preserve and add stability to the committees.
6. Shawna Woodard presented preliminary reports on Diversity Day and Week, which indicate the success of the celebration. A final report will be forthcoming. Preliminary numbers are that over 200 employees attended sessions on Diversity Day and 321 attended sessions during the week. Shawna will develop a statistic indicating the total number of training hours.
7. Due to its success, the committee recognized that it was expected that it will deliver another Diversity Day and Week in 2015. The Subcommittee previously met to

brainstorm many ideas for making improvements and for recognizing what went well. The Diversity Day Subcommittee is expected to mentor the new 2015 Diversity Day Subcommittee, with some key members agreeing to serve again. The following people volunteered to take an active role: Linda Cimino, Karen Chorney, Ewa Wojewodzki and Isabel Alvarez. Other former Subcommittee members will continue as “consultants” to the new Subcommittee. Names for new members of the Subcommittee were suggested and will be followed up.

8. What's Happening:

- a. Two SES staff attended CSSD Brown Bag presentations and will be developing a program for SES which will focus on child support services. The Brown Bag 2015 Calendar is in draft final form also, with six sessions at ITBD in New Britain and five sessions at Project MORE in New Haven.
- b. Linda Cimino has been asked to present the program Culture of Crime Victims, which she presented as part of Diversity Week, to the Bristol Court. This has been scheduled.

9. The next meeting will be January 27, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 204, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.