

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 December 16, 2011.

Those in attendance were:

Committee members: Hon. Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Paul Bourdoulous, Troy Brown, Karen Chorney, Esther Harris, Precious Hyland, Stephen Ment, Ines Nieves, Phil Strambler, Shawna Woodard.

Guests: Ann Foley, W. Dennis Harrell, Ryan Labieniec, Daisy Ortiz

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Judge Robinson.

1. The minutes from the meeting on September 16, 2011 were unanimously approved.
2. The committee members and guest facilitators discussed the Focus Groups held in November and December. Initial feedback from attendees has been very positive. Troy Brown will collect and summarize the feedback for the group.

The focus group facilitators' experiences were positive and very much consistent across the groups, although differences were also noted across districts. The data sheets will need to be analyzed and summarized but themes had already begun to emerge: the strongly held opinion that training should be regionalized; the enthusiastic use of Language Line; the need for a simpler definition of cultural competency; and the strongly held opinion that additional training would be needed and welcomed, such as basic, conversational language instruction.

3. Next steps were discussed and included the distillation of the data from the focus groups; returning the results to the attendees and posting non-confidential information on the website; and projecting out short term and long term goals for the Advisory Committee.
4. Committee members who have attended other workshops and training sessions concerning cultural competency and diversity reported out.
5. The Committee reviewed the LEP Policy Statement with some discussion as to whether a similar statement would be helpful.
6. The Website Subcommittee reported out its changes, including improved and increased links. The members of the subcommittee also created a mailbox for the

committee, which will be accessible by all members. The subcommittee also created a shared folder on the K: drive.

7. The committee members will be receiving the information on feedback and data sheets prior to the next meeting. The members will be bringing ideas for the short and long term goals of the Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2012, at 10:00, in room 204 at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.