

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency

The Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency met at 225 Spring Street, Room 4B, Wethersfield, on January 26, 2016.

Attendees:

Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Isabel Alvarez, Paul Bourdoulous, Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Karen Chorney, Esther Harris, Precious Hyland, Cristina Johnson, Zarin Kapur, Ines Nieves, Daisy Ortiz, Philip Strambler, Shawna Woodard, Ewa Wojewodzki, and Alison Zawadski

Absent:

Linda J. Cimino, Juanita Halepas and Jean M. Weisbrod (Support Staff)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Welcome

Justice Richard A. Robinson opened the meeting with words of encouragement for another successful year for the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency. Paul Bourdoulous regretfully resigned from the committee due to work commitments. Justice Robinson and the committee expressed their gratitude for his dedicated service over the years. Justice Robinson appointed Zarin Kapur of Support Enforcement Services to the Advisory Committee, and the appointment was favorably received by the committee. Zarin is responsible for the training and development of Support Enforcement Services employees. She worked diligently as a member of the Diversity Week 2015 Subcommittee; she is a graduate of the Department of Mental and Health Services cultural competency cohort; and she is currently being trained to facilitate Foundation in Cultural Responsiveness (FCR) 100 and will be responsible for delivering this curriculum to her unit's employees.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 24, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Branch-wide Brown Bag Lunches

Karen Chorney reported that this is the year the Advisory Committee agreed to deliver at least one Brown Bag Lunch to all Branch employees, and that Linda Cimino volunteered to chair the first one. Cristina Johnson and Ines Nieves volunteered to work on the committee with Linda. Justice Robinson would like for the Advisory Committee to work its way to delivering three Brown Bag Lunches per year. He would also like to speak to Linda about helping him to organize a Brown Bag Lunch for the Supreme Court.

4. Diversity Week 2016

It is time for the Advisory Committee to begin planning Diversity Week 2016 which is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 24, 2016. Justice Robinson requested for volunteers to chair this year's event. With none being received at this meeting, he will make a request from specific Advisory Committee members.

5. FCR 200

Troy Brown reported that CSSD piloted an advanced course, Foundation in Cultural Responsiveness (FCR) 200, to several members of his division and the Advisory Committee. He was unable to cover all aspects of the curriculum during the one day pilot, and therefore, he will make some adjustments to the content. The components of the FCR 200 curriculum include: implicit bias; internalized oppression; and white privilege. In 2016, he expects to offer FCR 200 Branchwide on March 9, May 11, September 14, and November 9. Employees will be able to register for the one-day course via the LMS, but they must complete FCR 100 as a prerequisite.

Zarin informed the Advisory Committee that the Support Enforcement Services employees who completed the SES Cultural Competency course must be granted credit for FCR 100 since the Advisory Committee previously agreed that they would be grandfathered. Shawna Woodard will work with Zarin to ensure credit is granted.

6. ACCC Logo

Shawna presented the Advisory Committee members' submissions for artwork ideas to represent cultural competency and diversity for the Branch. The members discussed what aspects they liked and other things they may want to have included. Shawna will meet with the Branch's graphic designer to relay this information for two or three samples to present to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting. Troy, Ines and Karen will work with her.

7. What's Happening: Cultural Events around the Judicial Branch and Communities

Troy Brown will deliver a presentation for Black History Month on the influence African-Americans have made in music. The presentation will take place on February 9, 2016 from 2:00-4:00 PM at ITBD in New Britain. He invited all Advisory Committee members to attend and bring a guest.

Isabel Alvarez distributed to all members the 2016 cultural competency calendar issued by CSSD.

Troy announced a Black History Month lecture featuring professor Quinton Robinson on February 23, 2016. More information will be sent at a later date.

Zarin announced that the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal and the Connecticut Bar Foundation will sponsor a free symposium exploring the diverse experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) youth on March 4, 2016 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Shawna announced that Justice Robinson will be the keynote speaker at an event sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office. La Amistad will be held on February 26, 2016 at 12:30 PM at 157 Church Street in New Haven.

The Advisory Committee recognized Phil Strambler for the beautiful re-design of the ACCC Intranet website at <http://zeus/CC/default.htm>. Phil noted that Gabriel Prah of the Information Technology Division was instrumental in the re-design. Justice Robinson requested that the ACCC send Mr. Prah a thank you note. Phil said they are currently researching a way to include a calendar to hold events that are shared in the What's Happening section of our meeting agendas.

8. New Business

Concerning the creation of the cultural competency video that was approved by the Chief Justice, Karen Chorney said that she must provide additional information to the Branch's grant writer for an application to be submitted. Karen and Troy will meet with the Grants and Contracts Specialist to draft the language that is needed.

Alison Zawadski noted that Justice Robinson would be an excellent choice to deliver the keynote at the 2016 Diversity Week Opening Celebration. He said he will consider the offer after consulting with the Chief Justice since that is a time the Supreme Court is engaged in oral arguments. Troy Brown also mentioned Rachel Godsill, professor of law at Seton Hall University, who recently came to Connecticut for an event sponsored by the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity.

9. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is at 2:00 PM on March 22, 2016 in Room 204 at Spring Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.