

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

May 23, 2017
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
225 Spring Street, Room 204, Wethersfield

MINUTES

Attendees

Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Karen Chorney, Linda Cimino, Juanita Halepas, Esther Harris, Zarin Kapur, Daisy Ortiz, Philip Strambler, Shawna Woodard, Meghan Korn (Guest)

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Justice Robinson opened the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Justice Robinson noted that he has conducted brief training sessions for the offices of State's Attorney's, Public Defenders, and Attorney General. He has plans to conduct training for the new judges to be appointed, Magistrates, and Special Public Defenders. He may ask some Committee members to help him with breakout sessions at a later date. He also noted that he and Troy Brown met with the Public Defenders and that they are interested in FCR 100, and may attend a future offering. Chief Justice Rogers and Judge Carroll are enthusiastic about their interest. It was suggested that we might train individuals on how to deliver the curriculum so they may sustain the program within their organizations.

The Committee members unanimously approved the meeting minutes from March 28, 2017.

Status: ACCC Mission and Vision Statements

Members reviewed the proposed Committee mission and vision statements. The Committee also reviewed the statements juxtaposed to the Judicial Branch's mission and vision statements, Chief Justice Rogers' charge to the ACCC, and the definition of cultural competency as defined by the ACCC with input from Branch employees to be certain the statements were not in conflict. The ACCC unanimously approved the mission and vision statements. They will be presented to Chief Justice Rogers for her final approval.

Status: 2017 Diversity Week

Zarin Kapur reported on the status of this year's Diversity Week. A keynote speaker is still being pursued with Justice Robinson's assistance. The subcommittee has secured several presenters and is working on others for the Opening Celebration and the week's learning events. She also distributed a copy of the theme that the Committee commented on at its meeting in March.

Status: Spring Lunch and Learn

Juanita Halepas reported that "My Multicultural Self" is tentatively scheduled for June 30th in the New Haven Judicial District. She reserved Courtroom E at 121 Elm Street for the 1.5 hour program. She also noted that the presentation was revised based on the feedback she

received after the pilot offering with the ACCC. She will send Shawna Woodard the requested information to open it for registration via the LMS.

Status: ACCC Video

Karen Chorney reported that we were awarded a grant from the State Justice Institute to produce a video to use in conjunction with cultural competency training. The subcommittee formed will have its initial meeting on June 1st with members of Middlesex Community College Corporate Media Center, who will direct and produce the video. Karen is drafting a Memorandum of Agreement between the Branch and Middlesex Community College that Legal Services will review.

Lessons Learned: Race Forward – Building Racial Equity

Troy Brown, Karen Chorney, and Meghan Korn shared their experiences after having attended the Building Racial Equity training in New York City on April 27, 2017. They also shared some of the PowerPoint slides to give the Committee a mini-training session on what they learned, especially about the different dimensions of racism: internalized, interpersonal, institutionalized, and structural. They both noted that it was a worthwhile training program and that they received some good information and strategies to help them effectively talk about and respond to comments about race and racism when they are facilitating FCR 100, diversity, and other courses offered to Branch employees.

New Business or Announcements

Shawna announced that she will contact various members for information to draft the ACCC's annual report covering the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. She expects to share a draft with the ACCC at its next meeting in June.

Karen announced that the ACCC will have a special meeting on June 27, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss committee membership.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.