

Parent Education Program Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2019 – Court Support Services Division

Attendance – Judge Albis, Jill Davis, Mimi Donagan, Lisa Hyland. A member of the public observed the meeting.

Staffed by Joseph DiTunno

The agenda is distributed.

- As the current PEP Advisory Committee membership two year commitment ends in July of 2019, the members were asked to email Joe DiTunno if they wish to continue in the role. It was discussed that, per statute, the committee requires representation from a children's educator and domestic violence program provider. Dr. Kari Adamsons, Dr. John Clap and Colleen O'Neil have expressed interest in becoming members. It is up to the Chief Justice to appoint members to the Advisory Committee.
- The 2018 Parent Education Program Statistics with fee waiver data booklets were distributed to the membership. The survey data was reviewed. It consistently shows high and very high satisfaction with the program content and the facilitators. The trend of declining participants in the program has ceased. There was a program participant increase in 2018 of 6,022 compared to 5,814 in 2017. With the release of the Family Services Early Intervention Program these numbers are expected to increase as participation of the Parent Education Program is one important requirement of that service in Family Civil Court.
- The McCall Foundation has indicated that as of June 30, 2019 the agency will no longer provide the Parent Education Program in Torrington. McCall stated the agency was having difficulties finding qualified facilitators. Joseph DiTunno has reached out to Catholic Charities in Torrington and New Milford and at this point the agency believes it can take the additional clients so the court will not be impacted. Should demand exceed capacity additional classes will be provided by the agency. The committee agreed there is no need to re-bid the contract at this point.
- The Judicial Branch's facilitator annual training will be scheduled for the fall. Jill Davis suggested the topic of substance abuse in light of the opioid addiction epidemic. The committee agreed this would be a relevant and suitable topic. Joseph DiTunno will secure several options for this presentation. The committee will be provided more information in the upcoming months.

The next Parent Education Program Committee meeting will be scheduled once the new committee members have been confirmed at a mutually agreeable time for all.