

## PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

### MEETING MINUTES

**Attendance:** Jill Davies, Kari Adamsons, William Brown, Maureen Donegan, Doug Edwards, Joseph DiTunno, Steven Hernandez

**Regrets:** Judge Albis

A member of the public observed the meeting.

Staffed by Wanda Huertas.: The agenda is distributed.

Joseph DiTunno called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

PEP Advisory Committee membership two-year commitment has begun in September 2021. Wanda Huertas joined the meeting as a staff member.

**Review for Proposals (RFP):** RFP for services starting in July 2022-Draft of RFP will be sent to Committee by next Monday. For the Executive Session on October 28, 2021, Committee needs to determine if there are going to be any changes to the basic aspects of the Program (format/curriculum/qualifications/training). By November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, we need to be close to finalization of the RFP. December 1, 2021, final RFP needs to be submitted to JB Purchasing.

**Virtual PEP:** Joseph DiTunno shared with the committee that In March 2021, a roundtable meeting was held with PEP providers regarding future format of PEP classes (in-person, virtual or hybrid) and the providers wanted to have their discretion to have a virtual format or in-person. Committee had discussion about PEP going to be an option for providers as part of the regular offerings or based on an emergency COVID-19 situation in the future. There were four options discussed:

1. Retain the in-person Parenting Education Program (our historical service delivery-no changes).
2. Mandate agencies to have the capacity to deliver the program virtually but the schedule of classes will all be in-person.
3. Allow the agencies to propose as schedule as part of the RFP response that includes a combination of virtual and in-person (with a caveat that the amount of virtual will not be greater than the in-person offerings each month).
4. Shift the program to 100% virtual or allow the agencies to offer any schedule necessary to meet the needs of the participants.

Committee asked about a hybrid model in which the first class is taught virtually (content material) and the next class was taught in-person (group discussion); however, it was discussed that the providers did not like that model.

**PEP Surveys:** Judicial Branch is looking into Survey Monkey format to replace the outdated survey format and possibly have the providers survey the participants and report the results to the Branch as part of their quality assurance.

**On-Line Registration:** There was discussion on having participants register on-line or in person for their classes.

**PEP Yearly Statistics:** Committee agreed to combine 2020 and 2021 stats.

**PEP Observations by Family Services:** Virtual format was observed by Family Relations Counselors. It was shared that the facilitators did well in setting ground rules for virtual format. A few participants initially had trouble signing in; however, it was resolved quickly. Facilitators were able to deliver the class material without any problems. Participants were engaged in class discussions. Participants shared that they prefer the virtual format. There was a translator that was used for a class participant and it went well.

**New Family Court Process and connection to PEP:** Committee discussed the new family court process, Resolution Plan Date (RPD), which is an efficient way to assist families in family court to resolve their family disputes. This new process will assist families to be engaged in participating in the PEP classes at their initial court cases.

**Yearly Training Topics (Spring 2022):** Committee discussed different training topics: Coercive Control, Resolution Plan Date (the new court process), Trauma, Personality Disorder, PEP curriculum.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 p.m.