

## **Minutes**

### **Public Service and Trust Commission Committee on Cultural Competency**

**September 23, 2009**

The Committee on Cultural Competency met at 225 Spring Street in conference room 4B in Wethersfield on September 23, 2009.

Those in attendance: Hon. Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Hon. Jon M. Alander, Atty. Andrew Crumbie, Family Support Magistrate David A. Dee, Atty. Linda A. Dow, Hon. Brian T. Fischer, Hon. David P. Gold, Hon. Maria Araujo Kahn, Ms. Hilda Nieves, Ms. Robyn N. Oliver, Ms. Dalia Panke, Hon. Kevin A. Randolph, Hon. Dan Shaban, Atty. James Chen Tsui

The Chief Court Administrator, Judge Barbara M. Quinn, and Judge Alexandra D. DiPentima, Chair of the Public Service and Trust Commission, were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 PM by Judge Robinson.

1. Judge Robinson welcomed the members in attendance and asked the members to introduce themselves to the group. Judge Robinson indicated that he would like for the Committee to include representation from the Public Defender's Office and the Office of the State's Attorney.
2. Judge DiPentima provided an overview of the work of the Public Service and Trust Commission, the development of the Strategic Plan, which included five outcome goals, and the development of an implementation plan. One of the trends identified during the strategic planning process was the lack of understanding on cultural competency within the Judicial Branch. As a result, the Committee on Cultural Competency was created.

Judge Quinn, who served on the Committee on Changing Demographics, stated that she would provide the committee with the comments and observations from the focus groups and statistical data of the Connecticut population collected by that committee.

3. A discussion ensued on how to define "cultural competency." Several committee members provided insight and other resources available to understand cultural competency and diversity.

Linda Dow spoke of the work of the Diversity in the Branch Workforce Committee, which she chaired. The Committee on Cultural Competency has been charged with prioritizing the recommendations of the Diversity in the Branch Workforce Committee and to develop a timeframe of their implementation by December 1, 2009.

4. Robyn Oliver, Dalia Panke and Hilda Nieves spoke of the work of the Judicial Branch's Advisory Committee on Diversity and proposed giving a presentation at the next Committee meeting of that work.

Judge Kahn spoke of some of the recommendations made by the Committee on Limited English Proficiency. She recommended that the two committees should consider linking the training to be developed by the Cultural Competency Committee to that being developed by the Committee on Limited English Proficiency.

5. Judge Robinson discussed the need to form five subcommittees to address the Committee's charge. The subcommittees will address defining cultural competency; prioritizing the recommendations from the Diversity in the Branch Workforce Committee; training; issues related to intellectual and psychiatric disabilities; and issues related to the Branch's hiring/retention practices. Two subcommittees were to begin their work immediately: defining cultural competency and prioritizing the recommendations from the Diversity in the Branch Workforce Committee. Judge Robinson asked all members to sign up for one of the two subcommittees.
6. The next full Committee will take place the end of October or the beginning of November. The newly created subcommittees will meet beforehand.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.