

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency

The Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency met at 99 East River Drive, Room 707, East Hartford on February 26, 2015.

Those in attendance were:

Justice Richard A. Robinson, Chair, Isabel Alvarez, Paul Bourdoulous, Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Karen Chorney, Linda Cimino, Juanita Halepas, Esther Harris, Cristina Johnson, Phil Strambler, Shawna Woodard, and Alison Zawadski for the committee. Ann Foley and Jean Weisbrod as committee support. Zarin Kapur as a guest.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm by Justice Richard A. Robinson.

1. Welcome: Members introduced themselves, including the two newest members appointed to the committee: Samuel Bruder and Juanita Halepas.
2. Minutes: The minutes from the November 21, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Cultural Competency Video:
 - Troy Brown discussed the production of a video for Foundations in Cultural Responsiveness 100 which would replace the Department of Mental and Addiction Services video now used in FCR 100. He asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to develop concepts for the message and target audience. Sam Bruder, Karen Chorney, Juanita Halepas, Esther Harris, and Shawna Woodard volunteered to be members of the subcommittee. Members also discussed possible production and funding ideas.
4. Diversity Week 2015:
 - Linda Cimino distributed and discussed the 2015 Diversity Week Proposal. Members discussed the possible keynote speakers. Members then committed to begin researching and contacting possible speakers.
 - Linda Cimino discussed the breakout sessions, presentations, workshops and training topics being considered for Diversity Week. Members discussed the registration process and changes being made to improve the process.
5. Update on Foundations of Cultural Responsiveness (FCR 100) and Train the Trainer:
 - Troy Brown updated the members on the FCR 100 and Train the Trainer. There are 20 sessions available between March and December with three offerings that will be open to all Branch employees. Emily Turnbull of the Superior Court Operations Division Staff Development Unit will send emails to the Branch's training coordinators to announce registration and promote participation.

6. What's Happening:

- Isabel Alvarez discussed the Interfaith Seder hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council.
- Troy Brown and Isabel Alvarez distributed a 12-month calendar produced by COLP for CSSD. They asked the committee to consider doing something similar as a giveaway gift at the Diversity Day Opening Ceremony.
- Linda Cimino volunteered to reach out to NPR to ask the guest speaker on a February 26, 2015 *Where We Live* program to speak on *Implicit Bias in the Media* for Diversity Week.

7. New Business: Members updated the Committee on various activities either planned or in the planning stages.

- Shawna Woodard discussed celebrating Women's History Month. The Superior Court Operations Division Staff Development Unit will be presenting three programs in March: Cultivating Confidence, a presentation made by the CT Women's Hall of Fame; Celebrating Women Making a Difference, and Generations of Women in the Workplace.
- Committee members discussed ideas and plans for various programs that the Advisory Committee could sponsor, including Brown Bag lunch presentations throughout the year.
- Justice Robinson suggested that the Committee also explore reaching out to the Legislative and Executive Branches to participate in Diversity Week.
- Justice Robinson and Superior Court Judge Maria Kahn will be presenting a program on implicit bias to the Connecticut Defense Trial Lawyers Association.
- Troy Brown brought information to the Committee on two programs to be presented by the Harriet Beecher Stowe House Lecture series: "Is Feminism Just for Women?" (March 26) and "Implicit Bias – Can We Unlearn Unconscious Prejudice?" (April 16).
- Troy Brown notes that Supreme Court Justice Richard A. Robinson was the keynote speaker at the University of Connecticut, Stamford Branch's 11th Annual Black History Month Celebration.
- The next meeting will be March 24, 2015 at 2:00 p.m., in Room 204, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield. The Committee noted that the Diversity Day Subcommittee will meeting directly before the full Committee meeting.

8. Adjourn: 3:50 p.m.