

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency

The Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency met at 225 Spring Street, Room 204, Wethersfield, on July 28, 2015.

Attendees:

Isabel Alvarez, Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Karen Chorney, Linda Cimino, Juanita Halepas, Esther Harris, Cristina Johnson, Daisy Ortiz, Jean Weisbrod (Support Staff), Ewa Wojewodzki, and Alison Zawadski.

Absent:

Paul Bourdoulous, Precious Hyland, Ines Nieves, Philip Strambler

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Welcome

Karen Chorney opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 26, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Diversity Week 2015

Linda Cimino reported that:

- Volunteer positions for the Opening Celebration are numerous and committee members are requested to notify her as soon as possible if they are unable to attend.
- A workshop related to prevailing issues for returning military veterans will be added to the Opening Celebration.

Committee members reviewed draft versions of the Opening Celebration program and Diversity Week course schedule/descriptions.

4. Cultural Competency Video

Troy Brown reported that the subcommittee is reconvening Friday, July 31, 2015 after not being able to meet as scheduled in June.

5. ACCC Brown Bag Lunches

Karen Chorney opened the discussion by reporting that she and CSSD were putting together an ACCC sponsored Brown Bag Lunch toward the end of 2015. Discussion points included what "sponsorship" meant, how to market a joint venture, number of additional seats, and other logistics.

Troy Brown generously offered to facilitate *The Color of Justice* for the Judicial Branch in November with the stipulation that someone from the ACCC co-facilitate the event with him. Both Cristina Johnson and Sam Bruder volunteered to assist. Troy will be contacting each of them by phone.

Karen asked that further discussion of topics for the 2016 Brown Bag Lunch events sponsored by the ACCC be continued to the next meeting.

6. What's Happening

Troy Brown reported:

- The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center presented *Implicit Bias* on Thursday, July 23, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Stowe Center, Hartford.

- CSSD is completing the curriculum for Foundations of Cultural Responsiveness - 200 (FCR - 200). A pilot presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at ITBD, 185 Main Street, New Britain. Members of the ACCC are invited to attend (topics include Implicit Bias, Internalized Oppression and Privilege) and give feedback. This presentation will ultimately be open to anyone who completed FCR 100.
- The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System is hosting an Implicit Bias Conference at Gateway Community College on September 18, 2015 to include keynote speakers, workshops and panel discussion.

Ewa Wojewodski reported:

- The Polish community and Little Poland, located in the New Britain's Broad Street neighborhood, are credited with revitalizing the area both culturally and economically.

Daisy Ortiz reported:

- Riverfront Park, Hartford, hosts many cultural events during the summer months including the **Hartford Latino Fest**, Sunday, August 9th.

Esther Harris reported:

- Jury Outreach Unit provided an interview with Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS) Radio this month. Programs broadcast on CRIS Radio are available to individuals who, because of vision loss, learning disability or physical handicap, are unable to read printed material.
- Jury Outreach Unit will host a table at the **West Indian Day Celebration**, August 8th at Bushnell Park, Hartford.

Isabel Alvarez reported:

- **LGBT Pride Month Recognition Event – Reflections in the Community**, which was hosted by CSSD was well-attended and received positive feedback.

Juanita Halepas reported:

- **Fiesta Latina** presented by Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven will be held Saturday, October 10. This event is an annual celebration of Latin American cultures.

Cristina Johnson reported:

- Foundations of Cultural Responsiveness - 100 (FCR 100) has been attended by members of the Administrative Services Division and received very good feedback. ASD is encouraging staff to attend future offerings.

7. New Business

Troy Brown reported that the graphic logo created by External Affairs is for the ACCC and not CSSD.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

2015 Meeting Schedule

September 29, 2015	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Room 204, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield
November 24, 2015	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Room 204, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield