

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

September 20, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Video-Conference

MINUTES

Attendees: Judge Sanchez-Figueroa (Chair); Isabel Alvarez, Troy Brown, Lia Cestaro, Brian Hill, Meghan Korn, Delbert Martinez, Daisy Ortiz, Michael Snyder, Philip Strambler, Uyar Spiro, and Shawna Woodard

Absent: Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chairman Emeritus), Patrick (PJ) Deak, Esther Harris, and Ewa Wojewodzki

Judge Sanchez-Figueroa called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

The minutes from the July 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Diversity Week 2023

Isabel Alvarez reported that the classes are being entered into the Branch's Learning Management System (LMS), and the Subcommittee expects to make the classes available for registration this Friday or Monday of next week. The Subcommittee will meet tomorrow and one of the items for discussion will be to decide who will deliver the opening remarks and introduce the keynote speaker at the Opening Celebration.

Updates from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Troy Brown shared information from a course he recently completed: ***Strategies for Building and Leading a Diverse Organization***. Using lessons from this training, Meghan Korn recommended this subject as a theme for Diversity Week 2024.
- Troy is conducting focus groups with the five Executive Directors, individually. Some of the Executive Directors requested that he conduct a focus group with their directors.
- Foundations in Cultural Responsiveness (FCR) 100 is still being offered once per month. The learner evaluations have been positive. There are two more sessions in 2023 scheduled for October and November. Troy relayed that there are more CSSD employees and contracted providers attending their sessions. He has mentioned this to the Executive Directors during their focus group hoping to increase participation by other divisions. Facilitator recruitment is still an issue and must be addressed if we hope to increase participation in FCR 100 classes.
- Lia Cestaro has been appointed to the Program Manager position in the DEI Unit.
- Troy drafted a memo to the Executive Directors concerning Public Act 23-133. "Latinx" is no longer an acceptable term for the gender neutral. The Branch's educational materials, forms, etc. should be changed from "Latinx" to "Latina, Latino or Latine."
- An e-mail will be sent soon to all Branch employees about Hispanic Heritage Month. The internal website will also be updated.

New Business

None

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency will be November 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the CSSD Central Office in Glastonbury.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.