

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

November 15, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
CSSD, 455 Winding Brook Drive, Room 220, Glastonbury, CT

MINUTES

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

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

Judge Sanchez-Figueroa called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

The minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved with corrections.

Diversity Week 2023 Final Report

Isabel Alvarez provided a final report. The Opening Celebration was attended by 160 participants including family support magistrates, judges, and guests. A detailed report was available for the membership to review. A discussion ensued about planning for the next Diversity Week taking into consideration the evaluation comments and enrollment numbers. The ACCC agreed that we should make Diversity Week a marketing tool to not only celebrate diversity but also to make known all of the learning events that are scheduled throughout the year.

Updates from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Troy Brown met with all of the Judicial Branch Executive Directors and some of their next-level staff to conduct focus groups.
- Edwin Bell, Director of Racial Justice, Equity and Inclusion for the National Center of State Courts, attended ***Unfiltered Conversations on Race*** during Diversity Week 2023. He commented that he was more than impressed with the Connecticut Judicial Branch's activities to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are at the forefront among other states and he plans to use us as an example.
- The Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health will host a symposium on January 19, 2024 at the Legislative Office Building from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They will release their Equity Study report. Troy will be in attendance and expects to share some of the Branch's DEI efforts.
- Court Planner interviews will be held next week.
- The next ***Foundations in Cultural Responsiveness (FCR) 100*** is scheduled for this month.
- Lia Cestaro has been appointed to the Program Manager position in the DEI Unit.

New Business

Members discussed increasing the ACCC membership. The members agreed that a formal process for recruitment that includes an application should be developed.

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency will be January 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. via Video-Conference. Shawna Woodard will send meeting invites for the 2024 calendar year, which includes an in-person meeting in July and November.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.