**CWAC Racial Equity Practice Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**September 27, 2016**

**Bloomington Field Office**

**Co-Chairs: Darrin Holt and Robert Blackwell**

**Members Present:** Karima Douglas, Susan Stephens, Cole Thompson

**Not Present:** April Curtis, Dennette Derezotes, Daniel Fitzgerald, Elke Hansen, Jacalyn Herbert-Townsend, Kathleen Lutz, Maria Miller, Jere Murry, Cassandra Rogers-Lampkin

**Guests:** Jennifer Florent –DCFS Office of Communications, Mathew Grady – CWAC Administration/Finance Co-Chair, Claude Robinson – UCAN Exec. VP External Affairs/Diversity, Zach Schrantz – UCAN President/CEO, Beverly Jones – LCFS COO, Brent Diers – Exec. Dir. Lutherbrook

The meeting was opened by Co-chairs Darrin Holt and Robert Blackwell.

**I.** Members and guests participated in the **Check In and Reflections** Practice of the meeting.

**II. Institutional Racial Equity Initiatives:** Presentations were made by private agencies, 1) UCAN and 2) Lutheran Child and Family Service (LCFS) (Corporate) on their respective institutional efforts on Diversity and Inclusion and Race. UCAN representatives included Mr. Zach Schrantz –President/CEO and Claude Robinson – Executive Vice President of External Affairs and Diversity.  LCFS representatives included Ms. Beverly Jones – Chief Operating Officer and Mr. Brent Diers- Executive Director of Lutherbrook. **See presentation attachments below:**

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**III.** **An Integrated Policy Review Proposal:** The committee tabled the discussion on this itemuntil the next regular meeting of the committee to allow adequate time to introduce the Annual Campaign Planning agenda.

**IV. Subcommittee Annual Campaign Planning:** The meeting was also attended by Ms. Jennifer Florent – Office of Communications in support of the development of the subcommittees’ annual campaign planning. The campaign will focus on the education, promotion and encouragement of greater awareness and understanding of racial equity and the impact of existing racial inequities in the Illinois Child Welfare Practice and system. Jenny has agreed to provide additional technical consultation and support from her office to the Racial Equity Practice Subcommittee (R.E.P.S.) around the campaign’s development and implementation.

**Next Steps:** It was determined that the next meeting of the R.E.P.S. would be by conference call. Bob Blackwell’s office will poll members to establish the most desired meeting date in October.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Special Note:** During our next meeting the Co-chairs will be seeking volunteers for 2(two) Racial Equity Practice committees**.**

**Committee # 1, The Annual Campaign Planning Committee** will seek 4 members (½ White and ½ Persons of Color) to design our 2017 Campaign (see Charter for campaign purpose).

**Committee # 2, An Equity Policy Review Committee** will be created to establish a coordinated review process with the Department’s Transformation Teams, Action Teams and others to review select policy for comment and recommendation to the larger CWAC committee for adoption and submission to the Department. The committee may also propose new policy to CWAC and the Department for consideration.

We will also seek 4 members (½ White and ½ Persons of Color) to design and constitute this committee.

We anticipate setting term limits for participation in each of these committees.

**PLEASE LET DARRIN OR BOB KNOW WHICH OF THESE COMMITTEES YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR, IN ADVANCE OF OUR CONFERENCE CALL IF POSSIBLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO GET STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON BOTH OF THESE ENDEAVORS.**