

PEP Advisory Committee Meeting
March 27, 2024
2:00 PM-In Person

Attendance: Jill Davies; Doug Edwards; William Brown; Joseph DiTunno; Mimi Donagan; Wanda Huertas (staff member). No members of the public observed the meeting.

Regrets: Kari Adamsons, Judge Diana; Michael Werner (Steven Hernandez designee)

Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. Agenda, Parenting Education Program annual statistics and updated PEP brochure were distributed to committee members.

2. Membership

Steven Hernandez left his position which was a statutory position on the PEP Advisory Committee. Michael Werner will replace him on the PEP Advisory Committee

3. PEP Book and 2023 stats

The PEP Book is in process of being completed. Parenting Education Program Statistics for 2023 were distributed to the committee members and discussed. There were 4,291 participants who completed the Program. There was a 19% increase from 2022. Most participants are completing the program in-person versus virtually. There were 3,030 participants who completed the program in-person and 1,261 participants who completed the program virtually. The 33% virtual rule has not been met. Multiple agencies have abandoned the virtual classes due to the ratio. The virtual classes have more attendees on average than the in-person classes.

4. PEP Providers Meeting

A PEP Providers Meeting was held in January to discuss referrals, class platform and the future of Program. The providers expressed appreciation of the virtual format requirements being lifted eliminating the two facilitators and increasing the number of class participants to twenty.

Providers are pleased with the increase of referrals; however it still is not a significant increase in referrals to be able to sustain the Program. They continue to express concerns about low enrollment/low referrals/high number of fee waivers and are concerned about the sustainability of offering PEP classes in the future.

Providers shared resources with one another and assisted each other in creating a QR code for the PEP Survey Monkey questionnaire that participants need to fill out. Utilizing the QR code would increase survey responses.

5. PEP Brochure

PEP Brochure was updated in March due to legislation changing Fairfield Judicial District to Bridgeport Judicial District. Wanda worked closely with the PEP providers to make changes to their contact and website information on the brochure to ensure the changes were

incorporated with the brochure being update. The updated PEP brochure is being printed and on the Judicial website.

6. Virtual Programming

There was discussion that participants are seeking virtual classes than in-person which appears to be more problematic for providers.

7. On-Line PEP Programs vs current PEP classes

There was discussion that companies have been calling to provide an interactive on-line PEP classes with an additional program for children as well. The on-line program is less expensive that the current PEP classes. It appears that this on-line class can be an additional class after the participants have taken the current PEP class. PEP participants have expressed appreciation for an in-person class as they felt seen and heard. The benefit of the PEP in-person class is helpful and there is a human communication.

8. PEP Video

It was suggested that a short three-minute video to be posted on the Judicial Website discussing the benefits of PEP can increase referrals. Possibly have parents who are willing to speak about the Program. Possible resources to obtain equipment was discussed.

9. Fall 2024 Provider Training

Panel Discussion: Advisory Council willing to do a panel discussion.

Depending on topic, attorney Brown may know someone who can be a trainer

Possible Training topics: Children's Mental health; restorative justice in family court

Darcy Lowell, Associate Professor at Yale University can be a possible trainer

10. Next steps

PEP Book to be completed

Finalize Date/time of Yearly Training

Prepare a short 3-minute video discussing the benefits of PEP

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.