

SUMMARY OF COALITION MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2015

The focus of the meeting was to examine how best to utilize the expertise and connections of the Coalition members to achieve our mission of “championing systemic change.”

Several updates were provided:

1. **Coalition sustainability funding:** An application has been submitted to the Trees Foundation requesting funding to sustain the coalition for an additional 18 months. The proposal include a request to fund a Policy Specialist to assist the Coalition.
2. **DHS Meeting:** Members who participated in the meeting with DHS that included Secretary Dallas, Deputy Secretary Nancy Thaler, and Special Advisor to the Secretary Steve Suroveic shared their view of the positive reception to our interests and general agreement about the need to address congregate care for children with disabilities. They reported that Nancy Thaler has been tasked with developing an analysis of the issue with assistance from Steve Suroveic.
3. **Data:** Continuing receipt of data seems to confirm at least 2,800 children and youth under age 22 living in congregate care settings. A large proportion seem to be children in CYF custody and Residential Treatment Settings. Questions remain about the data but the encouraging fact is that a cycle of drilling down has continued.
4. **Website:** The Members Only page is open and will be updated routinely. Password access can be gained by signature on the conditions of use.

Participants then engaged in several activities to identify where we should target our energies going forward looking at issues related to each of the following state agencies: ODP, CYF, OMAP,OLTL, MHSA. Discussion also occurred regarding the various ways members could participate other than coming to face-to-face meetings.

Results of the survey of member topic area interests and engagement preferences were shared. Only half of the members have submitted surveys to date. Follow up will occur to get surveys from those who have not yet responded.

Overall, several next step actions were identified.

1. Develop a template clearly identifying the most pressing changes we are seeking to make, and then identifying how those changes would be particularly addressed for subgroups of children represented by various state agencies. A draft will be developed and circulated to build consensus.
2. Follow up with Nancy Thaler:
 - a. Nancy Rosenau will make contact as Nancy Thaler has specifically referenced her work during the meeting with DHS.
3. Post survey information on the website Members Only page regarding members’ interest in topics and preferences about how they want to participate
4. Develop interactive methods for communication beyond face-to-face meetings (e.g., Drop Box or Google Hangout/Drive)