**Region 5 RAC Meeting Minutes**

**August 27th, 2015 3:00- 4:30 pm**

**Location: WYSS**

**Attendance:** Cassie Manger, Dave Santis, Mark Hygysicion, Jessica Sachse, Patricia Gaylord, Sandy Porteus, Pam Wright, JK, Jennifer Bellamy, Kim Monahan, Sandy Phair, Carlton White, Deb Kelleher

Welcome and Introductions by Deb Kelleher

Scheduled presenter: Carlton White. Carlton was unavoidably detained so the meeting commenced without a presentation.

A discussion was held with providers and families regarding mental health services, the stressors placed on service providers to accommodate families as quickly as possible resulting in overloaded caseloads and gaps in services in the region.

The group briefly reviewed the report topics from last year for the new attendees which led to a rich discussion regarding the conduct and presentation of DCF social workers during home visits. Individuals at the meeting expressed how families can feel uncomfortable when DCF staff enter their homes. It was reported that sometimes staff will refuse to sit down in the family home, which is interpreted as disrespectful by the families. There was also discussion about how some DCF staff do a wonderful job building positive relationships with both the families and the children that they work with. It was noted that when DCF staff and the youth connect that there is much greater success for the youth.

 There were announcements about the Fatherhood initiative and upcoming events.