

Child Welfare Partners Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 28th 2011

2- 4:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE Side 1

Members in attendance: Doug Johnson, Wendy Rickman, and Mindy Norwood

Members by phone: Gary Lippe, Evan Klenk, Brian Fox, Chris Secrist, Nola Aalberts, and Janice Lane

Members not in attendance: Julie Allison, Cheryl Goodwin, Anne Gruenewald, Marc Baty, and Carol Gutchewsky

Observers in attendance: Representative Mary Mascher

Observers by phone: Kristie Oliver, Executive Director, Coalition

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to provide general updates and confirm new membership beginning July 1, 2011.

Summary of Meeting:

Anne Gruenewald and Marc Baty's membership term ends June 30, 2011. The CWPC members thank both Anne and Marc for their time, dedication, and efforts to the vision of this committee while serving the length of their terms. The CWPC members welcome Barb Gay of Foundation 2 as the new Coalition member for the term July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. A welcome to Jean Slaybaugh, DHS Chief Financial Officer, who has replaced outgoing member Jan Clausen who retired from DHS in April 2011. Membership of the DHS term for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014 has not been identified and remains vacant at this time.

There was discussion around length of service of the co-chair for the private sector as to whether it should be the full three year term or one year terms. The public (DHS) co-chair serves by virtue of the position as Division Administrator for Adult, Children, and Family Services. It was agreed that the co-chair position for the private sector would be a one year term with the option of one additional year. This committee will identify and approve a process to select the private sector co-chair.

The CFSR PIP was submitted on March 21, 2011 for approval. There was a meeting on June 3rd with our federal partners to provide additional clarification on the PIP. It is believed that we have placement stability identified through all child welfare contracts, including performance measures, but the federal partners would like for Iowa to identify one specific strategy regarding placement stability. Wendy shared that the federal partners have commented Iowa's PIP process has been one of the smoothest.

There was discussion around the Blueprint for Forever Families and what role this committee plays in pulling information into practice and into all contracts. There will continue to be discussion with the foundation of the Blueprint to be used as an ongoing reference. The Blueprint is the topic tentatively scheduled for the supervisory seminar during the month of October. There was identification on the most efficient and productive ways to set the tone of the Blueprint to communicate a consistent message across the state. The agreement was to use the “practice champion” method and to include key players from the service areas.

There was also discussion about the possibility of organizing a PIP Kick Off this summer and using the Blueprint as the foundation. Wendy will identify a small group of individuals to work toward identifying a proposal for such.

The committee continued discussions around increasing readership of the “Journey of Partnership.” Suggestions included:

- Provide the link during the supervisory seminars;
- Explore additional entries aside from the “conversations” between public and private on specific topics;
- Explore interviewees beyond public and private to include other stakeholders;
- Consider posting “conversations” from actual family members and/or children; and
- Increase the frequency of posting and/or updates.

Representative Mary Mascher provided the committee with a legislative update.

Work Group Updates: (The following updates were provided by each of the co-chairs in attendance) - As of this meeting date, the active workgroups are as follows:

Performance Based Contracting – Wendy had a conference call with Jennifer Sharma on May 20th for follow up from the March 16th meeting regarding Technical Assistance (TA) on Performance Based Contracting (PBC). The following outcomes were identified from the conference call:

1. General training with DHS staff to be held sometime over the summer to discuss PBC trends, what we learn from other states, and explore how much DHS understands contract parameters.
2. One or two day session with public/private staff (sups?) to create a shared understanding and identify strategies to build/maintain effective relationships while implementing new performance based contracts. The tentative time frame for this session/retreat/summit is Fall 2011.
3. Identify specific mediation services while Iowa is working through some of the contract implementation bumps and focus on what we are specifically struggling with.

Family Interaction/Family Team Meeting – The monthly meetings continue to occur the 2nd Friday of every month with the primary focus around the CFSR PIP action steps. Chris, Mindy, and Pat Anderson met on May 31st as well as June 28th to identify next steps as well as confirm small group membership to begin working on the PIP activities. As of this date, there are about 22 people, both private and public who have volunteered to work on the PIP activities. The representation on this small group covers all five service areas of the state and all but one of the contracted child welfare services. We are following up on getting representation from the Recruitment & Retention (R&R) contract but currently have representation for Safety Plan/FSRP Services, CWES, Group Care, and SAL.

Training – A meeting was held on June 20th with the next one scheduled for July 18th. As we move forward with new contracts and new/different private organizations being awarded contracts, the membership of this committee will continue to be reviewed and modified to ensure that there is membership across the entire state as well as all contracts. This group continues to serve as a link and communication mechanism between the other training groups and ensures that issues relating to all training groups are identified. This group will help coordinate and ensure PIP related trainings. One known area of PIP related focus is on Family Interaction/Family Team Meetings and training to be developed regarding cultural competence. University of Iowa’s National Resource Center for In-Home Services is helping Iowa develop a model of supervisory practice. This will be aligned with supervisory training needs identified within the PIP, but is not in and of itself training – it will (hopefully) be an agreed-upon, evidence-based model of supervisory practice that will improve DHS’s and provider’s supervisory practice and clinical oversight. DHS and provider reps are part of this workgroup.

This group has tentatively identified topics for the upcoming supervisory seminars which are as follows:

- **July** – PIP Update
- **August** – Contracted Services Overview/follow up to June training
- **September** – Supervisory Competencies
- **October** – Blueprint for Forever Families
- **Other topics to include:** Family Finding, Family Interaction/Family Team Meeting

All other workgroups have completed assigned duties identified in each respective charter.

Next steps:

1. The “Journey of Partnership” will be an ongoing agenda item for this committee. The point of contact will be the CWPC and anyone who wishes to contribute to the journey by adding comments or sharing a story, should submit their request to Mindy. The requests will then be provided to the CWPC for a decision. Amy Juhnke has agreed to continue in her role in this process.
2. Update membership to the training document regarding the following committees: DHS, Provider, and CWPC Joint) – **in process**.
3. Mindy will review the T/TA application process regarding NRCOI on site since no longer offering the Strategic Planning session - **in process**.
4. Submit any interest or nominations for a new co-chair for private sector.
5. Identify and approve a process to select private sector co-chair based on nominations.

The next meeting of this committee has not yet been scheduled but will occur either in July or August.

Our Vision:

The combined experience and perspective of public and private agencies provide the best opportunity to reach our mutual goals: child safety, permanency, and well-being for Iowa’s children and families. Collaboration and shared accountability will keep the focus on child welfare outcomes.