

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 14th 2013

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Julie Allison, and Doug Johnson

Members by phone: Evan Klenk, Mike Mitchell, Pat Penning, Jennifer Sievert, Carol Gutchewsky, Brian Fox, and Barb Gay

Members not in attendance: Wendy Rickman, Nola Aalberts, Jean Slaybaugh, and Chris Secrist

Observers in attendance: Kristie Oliver, Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the draft 2013-2015 CWPC Strategic Plan and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There are five (5) members with the term ending June 30, 2013: Brian Fox (Coalition), Doug Johnson (Coalition), Chris Secrist (Non-Coalition), Carol Gutchewsky (DHS/SWA), and Evan Klenk (DHS/SAM).

The new DHS members include Tom Bouska (SAM) from the Western Service Area and Dawn Turner (SWA) from the Northern Service Area for terms effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

Deadline for receipt of CWPC applications for Coalition and Non-Coalition membership is April 1, 2013. The Coalition Board will make the appointment of Coalition provider members and selection/appointment of Non-Coalition providers will be made by the Child Welfare Partners Committee. As of this date, one application for a Non-Coalition member has been received. The Coalition will have selections for membership confirmed by the end of March and will provide the names and contact information to Mindy. The Non-Coalition membership will be selected and confirmed at the April 11th CWPC meeting. Due to Brian's membership expiring this June, there is a vacancy for private co-chair and the position is open for nominations.

The Strategic Plan was finalized during this meeting and will be sent out to the entire committee for one last review since not all members were in attendance this date. Once the plan is approved by the committee, it will be posted to the CWPC website as well as shared more broadly with our stakeholders.

A brief update was provided on the CFSR PIP. We are currently in Quarter 6. A copy of all Executive Summaries can be accessed on the DHS website.

An update was provided on Differential Response. The House Committee passed HF 415 through the first funnel. The two paths recommended for Differential Response would include the traditional path through a CPS Assessment Summary and the second a Family Assessment Response (FAR). For either path, criteria must be met of child, caretaker, and category of child abuse. The proposed implementation date is January, 2014 which the Department believes is feasible. This will require changes to workflow, rules, and systems based on SBT workgroup recommendations. (See SBT workgroup infrastructure below).

In the traditional path, the timeframes to observe alleged child victims remains the same at 1 hour, 24 hours, or 96 hours. The assigned Child Protection Worker (CPW) will complete a Safety Assessment as well as a Risk Assessment and complete the CPS Assessment Summary report within 20 business days from the date of intake. At completion of this report, there will be findings and a determination of abuse allegations (not confirmed, confirmed, or confirmed and placed on the registry = founded). There will also be recommendations for service.

In the FAR path, the timeframes to observe alleged child victims is 72 hours. The assigned CPW will complete a Safety Assessment as well as a Risk Assessment and complete an Assessment Summary report within 10 business days from the date of intake. At completion of this report, there will not be a determination of abuse allegations but rather recommendations to whether the family would benefit from services, etc. If safety concerns are identified during the course of the Family Assessment Response, it may be kicked over and assigned to the traditional path but not vice versa.

There is reported controversy on HF 415 because it recommends that the County Attorney's Office not be provided copies of the FAR intakes or of the completed FAR assessment summary.

DHS Service Business Team (SBT) infrastructure for Differential Response workgroups:

1. Operations (DHS/Internal only) – this group is active and looking at the work flow process from intake through the end of the report up to service recommendations but does not include the service component.
2. **Marketing and Communications – this group has not yet been formed/started but will consider a communication structure for who, what, when, etc. and will include external representation on how to share information. The plan is to form this group and begin work in April 2013 and continue on an ongoing basis.
3. Contracts and Services (DHS/Internal) – this group is active and is currently reviewing child welfare services/contract and will abide by the Accountable Government Act (AGA) and procurement rules, etc.
4. **Training – this group has not yet been formed/started but will include external representation.
5. **Performance Measures and Surveys – this group has not yet been formed/started but will identify what types of outcomes/measures to be collected and will include external representation.

(** denotes that a member of the CWPC will be included on the workgroup for external representation)

Kristie Oliver shared that there are reported concerns at the Capitol regarding the 10 day time

frame for completion of the Family Assessment Response report. The Coalition has concerns with the effective date of January 1, 2014 as this is midway through the services contract year.

There was discussion regarding the amendment process for all contracts, including new and existing/ongoing contracts. The CWPC approved the process in October of 2009 with the vision that amendments to contracts would be few and far between as we moved forward with performance based contracting. A copy of the amendment process will be provided to this committee for additional review.

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:

Family Interaction (FI)/Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) – This workgroup continues working diligently on benchmarks identified within the PIP and has submitted evidence of completion documents timely to the DHS Service Business Team (SBT) as required. The primary focus of the workgroup this quarter is around developing and/or revising current DHS policy/manual, forms, and training.

Training – Carol provided the committee with a copy of the most recent notes from the Joint Training Committee.

Next steps:

1. The Strategic Plan will be sent out one final time for review and approval.
 - a. Once approved, a copy of the final draft will be shared and posted to the CWPC website.
2. Nominations for private member co-chair should be emailed to Mindy.
3. Mindy will send out a copy of the amendment process as well as the Youth Transition Decision-Making (YTDM) brochure which explains the YTDM/Youth Dream Team approach.
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled on April 11th from 1-3:00 p.m.

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.