

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Friday March 2nd, 2012**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members present:** Wendy Rickman, George Belitsos, Jerry Foxhoven, Denise Moore, Dick Moore, Ron Stehl (phone), Gail Barber, Julie Phillips, Anne Grunewald (phone).

**Members absent:** Edwin Daye, Jenna Oliver, Jean McAleer, Chris Secrist, Nancy Magnall, Susan Walkup, Senator James Seymour, Senator Amanda Ragen, Representative Renee Schulte, Representative Mary Mascher.

Meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for January 13th 2012 stand approved as written.

**Update on Legislative Action**

Wendy gave an update on the legislative action that has taken place this session.

County Attorney Bill (HF608). This bill has passed out of the house committee and is up for debate, no date has been set.

DHS's position is against this bill. George B. made a motion that our committee chair draft a letter to legislators opposing the Bill and listing our reasons, Julie P seconded. Dick M asked that there be an amendment instead of opposing the bill to the motion that reads that we support the recommendation in the report of the work group on the County Attorney bill. This amendment was accepted by the George and Julie. The amendment was voted on and approved. Jerry will prepare a letter to Director Palmer.

Foster Care Licensing Bill (HF2309):

This bill lengthens the time a foster parent can be licensed. Currently we license a new foster parent for 1 year, renew every year. With this new bill they would be licensed for the 1<sup>st</sup> year then when the second year came around they would be licensed for two years at a time, then it would be every two years through the length of the time they are foster parents.

Child Abuse Registry bill (HF 2226):

This bill has passed the House 95-0 and it is now in the Senate. Continued cooperation is occurring around these issues and everyone looks forward to the continuing work.

House Appropriation Bill (HSB 661): The Department has issued some impact statements on this bill. George B made a motion that the committee care draft a letter to the legislature that the Child Welfare advisory committee takes a position that the committee is concerned about this bill and its' impact, Ron S. seconded and send a copy to the DHS council. This motion was voted on and passed. Jerry will prepare a letter.

Safe Haven Bill (HF2135): this bill allows parents to leave children at a safe place such as a hospital from Birth to the age of 14 days old. This bill has died in funnel; they wanted to move the dates for the children to be left from Birth to age 1 year.

Human Trafficking (HF 2390): George passed out a hand out prevention of Human Trafficking.

### **Report on the Progress of Iowa's Blueprint or Permanency**

The next meeting will by Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 at noon. The oversight group reviewing the Blue Sheet supplements continues to meet and several supplements have been developed. These documents are available on the DHS website, and all parties are pleased with the progress with this strategy.

Gail stated the summit committee (following up on the Permanency Summit) has a meeting on Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>. They are going to offer team training in each district in order to continue the permanency summit conversation on a more localized level. The local teams will be able to host up to 100 people in a meeting.

### **Update on the Education meeting**

Wendy sent out updated materials for review prior to the meeting. The group that attended this meeting in DC will regroup after the legislative session to determine next steps.

### **General Member Updates**

AMP had a day on the hill, George passed around pictures of this day.

George distributed a hand out about a presentation about a presentation with Luis CdeBaca the Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking. This will be held Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Sun Room, Memorial Union at Iowa State University. Amp will be presenting Mr. CdeBaca with an award for the work he has done on behalf of children.

George stated some of the other issue's that AMP is addressing is the credits transferring, anti bullying.

Jerry said there are a couple of bills from last year that are still making their way through, they are Identity theft and cleaning up records.

### **Mental Health Redesign Update**

Mental Health Redesign has two bills working their way through the legislature. Following session, the Children's Disability Workgroup will regroup to determine next steps.

### **Exploration of Role and Plan for the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC)**

Iowa Code 217.28 defines the role of CWAC. Jerry asked the group to consider the value of CWAC to the overall child welfare system. It was agreed the group is a valuable place to get child welfare updates, but members had suggestions.

#### **Suggestions:**

- The group should be making recommendations to the legislature or the DHS council on budget issues The group should utilize more sub-committees
- Continued coordination between the Director, DHS Council, and CWAC is critical to continued movement forward.

#### **Challenges:**

- There are many groups working on the same issues we are tracking in this committee
- There are only so many resources to staff this work.

### **Public Comment**

No Public Comment

Next Meeting will be held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 1-3 Drake Legal Clinic in the Clinic Library.

Adjourned 3:00 pm

Lori VandeWall  
3-5-12