

## **Child Welfare Partners Committee**

### **Meeting Notes**

Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2/Teleconference

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

**Members by phone:** Evan Klenk, Nola Aalberts, Gary Lippe, Cheryl Goodwin, Carol Gutchewsky, and Jennifer Sievert

**Members not in attendance:** Wendy Rickman Jean Slaybaugh, Barb Gay, Brian Fox, and Chris Secrist

**Observers in attendance:** No observers in attendance.

**Observers by phone:** No observers by phone.

### **Purpose of the Meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting was to review identified objectives and provide status updates within the CWPC Strategic Plan, confirm membership terms, and provide general updates.

### **Summary of Meeting:**

The process has been initiated for selection of a Coalition member although no deadline has been identified. The Coalition has received applications and is currently reviewing for selection to submit to the Board for approval for the membership term July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. The goal is to have a member identified by the next meeting in April 2012. Wendy Rickman will appoint two DHS members for the term of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 and one DHS member for the term ending June 30, 2014.

The Iowa CWPC Strategic Plan was approved in January 2012 and posted to the CWPC website. In reviewing the plan, there are two objectives with activities/tasks due in March 2012.

The first objective is identifying and using existing structures in each service area to engage in regularly scheduled proactive partnership discussions. The activity in this objective due by March 1, 2012 is the development of indicators of good partnership which was assigned to Brian, Mindy, and Nola. A draft document was provided to the CWPC for review and comment with the following identified as themes:

1. Transparent Communication
2. Commitment to Partnership
3. Professional Relationships

Indicators listed under each of these themes will be used to measure how we establish and maintain a strong public/private partnership. The draft document was revised, approved, and adopted on 3.8.12 by the CWPC.



Partnership  
Indicators - Final CWPC

The next step within this objective is to collect baseline and annual data on existing partnership with a due date of May 1, 2012. The avenue to collect this baseline information is to develop a survey to distribute to DHS and Contractor staff across the state. The survey will be developed using the indicators from the document approved and adopted 3.8.12. Nola and Carol have agreed to take the lead on developing this survey and submit to the CWPC for review before distribution.

There is an activity under this objective with a February 1, 2012 and ongoing timeline which identifies the incorporation of partnership themes into quarterly DHS Program Managers reports. Beginning October 2011, DHS Program Managers began convening quarterly meetings with Contractors of respective program areas. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held in January 2012 with the next scheduled for April 2012 in which partnership themes have been incorporated and will continue to be incorporated in these meetings and reports.

The second objective is promoting DHS/Contractor/Court collaboration on use of data and information. The activities in this objective due by March 31, 2012 include creating recommendations for use of DHS and Contractor data and information, developing questions that can be used for review of that data and information, and developing a communication plan for distribution of the questions which was assigned to Gary and Cheryl. Gary and Cheryl reported that they have met and are working on developing a plan that will be shared with this group for review/comment. The meeting that was scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> was not held but will be rescheduled. Once additional information is shared, it will be provided to the CWPC members for review.

As part of the Strategic Plan, Goal 2 is: Create a culture of quality that promotes the use of data and information. The first objective of this goal is to guide the development and use of Results Oriented Management (ROM) with the first activity for the CWPC members to review a ROM demonstration. This demonstration will be facilitated by Carol during the April 5<sup>th</sup> CWPC meeting which will also be recorded in order to make available for others to review.

As we move forward with implementation of the next phase of ROM, we have the opportunity to identify information that will help the child welfare system to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the children and families served. There is a request for one (1) contracted provider representative to participate in both the internal and external ROM groups and then five (5) additional representatives to participate in the external group. The external group will focus around information needed for contracted providers and Court. The draft scope of this group is to identify how ROM can best assist contracted providers and Court staff to manage cases effectively and efficiently. An email request will be sent out to all child welfare contracted service providers requesting interest in representatives to participate in this process.

There is an opportunity for a shared learning collaborative on performance based contracting and Iowa has been invited to be one of the states to participate. The committee expressed an interest in following up with this and will identify next steps to begin this process.

The Department is seeking a contractor representative to serve on a steering committee that is being created to address minority over-representation, including cultural competency/responsiveness in the child welfare system. The Department has contracted with the University of Northern Iowa to support and facilitate this group. An email request will be sent out to all child welfare contracted service providers requesting interest in identifying a representative to participate on this committee.

An update was provided on the CFSR PIP. Julie shared that an Executive Summary will be made available providing information on the first quarter benchmarks.

There will be continued discussion regarding the Journey of Partnership to identify ways to increase participation and engagement.

Nola shared that she received the 2012 Administration on Children, Youth and Families Commissioner's Award and will be attending a national conference in Washington DC.

**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* –No update provided.

*Family Interaction/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 most recent submission was a final draft of the FTDM Standards/Handbook as well as a summary of best practice discussions. These were submitted along with the February Monthly Report on 2.28.12. The group will now be dividing into three subgroups to address quarter three benchmarks: Policy, FTDM Facilitation, and Family Interaction.

*Training* – The last meeting was held on February 20<sup>th</sup> with the next one scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to ensure that the identified objectives are being met within the annual plan. A few of the key objectives include increasing joint attendance to the supervisory seminars/webinars and providing additional support/training to maximize dialog and shared learning; support rollout of the Blueprint; and all CFSR PIP related training activities as assigned.

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. The next topic for the Journey of Partnership is the process around the development of the Strategic Plan. Gary and Cheryl will be interviewed for this topic.
  - a. Gary and Cheryl have made contact with Amy Juhnke to schedule time for the interview process.
3. Nola and Carol will develop a survey and provide to the committee for review/approval.
4. Work will continue on objectives and activities within the Strategic Plan.
5. Follow up on the shared learning collaborative opportunity with Casey.
6. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 which will include a ROM demonstration.

### **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.