

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Jennifer Sievert, and Wendy Rickman,

Members by phone: Mike Mitchell, Mike Arndt, Holly Karr White, Cheryl Plank, Tom Bouska, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Rick Venenga

Members not in attendance: Jon Wetlaufer, Julie Allison, Dawn Turner, and Nola Aalberts

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

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting this month was to review committee membership terms and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There is one DHS position that will remain vacant at this time until a Service Area Manager (SAM) is identified to fill the position for the next three year membership term effective 7.1.15 – 6.30.18. Pat Penning and Marc Baty retired from the Department leaving two vacant SAM positions, one in the Des Moines Service Area and one in the Cedar Rapids Service Area. Mike McInroy is the new SAM for the Des Moines Service Area and Matt Majeski is the new SAM for the Cedar Rapids Service Area.

There are currently three members whose terms end on 6.30.15 and new membership must be identified. Jennifer Sievert, Nola Aalberts, and Julie Allison are all in their second term so this leaves vacancies for one Coalition member, one Non-Coalition member, and one DHS member. The Coalition will provide the name of the next member with a term effective 7.1.15 – 6.30.18. Mike Mitchell's first term ends on 6.30.15 but he is eligible for a second consecutive term through 6.30.18.

The private co-chair position is open for nomination and selection for the term of 7.1.15 – 6.30.16. Committee members should send nominations to Mindy in order to bring to the committee for vote at a later meeting.

One of the first work products out of the CWPC subcommittees was that of the Resource Family Tip Sheet – Workers & Their Roles. This was updated in September 2011 upon implementation of several of the child welfare service contracts. Recently, the Integrated Health Homes (IHH) workgroup reviewed this document and decided to update it by adding a column for IHH. This workgroup included representatives from DHS and Magellan of Iowa. IHH implementation is statewide and includes child welfare cases, including those where DHS has guardianship. The IHH workgroup felt it was important for foster and adoptive families to know about IHH and the IHH worker. The IHH workgroup also noted that Juvenile Court Services (JCS) was missing from this document and added a column for that as well. Since some JCS children are in foster care, the workgroup believed that JCS should also be included. This document was created out of the CWPC, so any revisions to this document must be approved by the CWPC members prior to it being shared and/or posted on the website. In addition of the two new columns, other revisions included grammatical changes, inclusion of family assessment to reflect Differential Response (DR) implementation under the DHS Assessor column, and updated the links to

reflect the new webpages due to the change to the DHS website. The CWPC members approved the revisions to this document and will distribute and post to the CWPC website. This document will also be reviewed on an annual basis by this committee to determine if any additional information or revisions are necessary.

Casey Family Programs agreed to provide technical assistance to assist in the development of the next strategic plan. Wendy, Julie, Jen, and Mindy have been in conversations with Casey Family Programs and met in person with two representatives on April 1, 2015 to begin identifying the focus and outcomes of the strategic planning meeting scheduled for August 19 – 20, 2015. Cheryl agreed to assist Jen with the strategic plan due to her membership term ending prior to the meeting in August.

The annual statewide meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2015. A “save the date” email was sent out notifying contractors to select up to three attendees to represent their organization. The planning committee has been meeting by conference calls to develop the agenda and is scheduled to meet again on April 29, 2015. It was suggested that once the topics for the agenda are identified and confirmed, that this be shared with a broader audience for input on the agenda. The agenda will be sent to those on the distribution list for confirmed attendance to the meeting for their input.

There was an update provided on Differential Response (DR). A power point presentation is available on the DHS website which can be accessed at the following:

<http://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/differential-response>

This power point has been used for presentations to the Joint Appropriations Committee and to specific stakeholders in a targeted webinar as well as ongoing conversations. The most recent one was for the Judges Conference in March and next week at the Prevent Child Abuse Iowa (PCAI) Conference. DR is working as it is intended but there continue to be groups who express concerns about the system. The primary groups expressing concerns are specific Drug Endangered Children (DEC) teams, law enforcement, and county attorneys.

There was a brief legislative and budget update provided. We are waiting for the Governor’s budget to be released. There was also some discussion regarding the Medicaid Modernization RFP.

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:

Training – Co-chairs are Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner. Mike Mitchell provided a brief update on the joint training committee activities.

Next steps:

1. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for May 14, 2015 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.