

Child Welfare Partners Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 13th, 2012

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

Members in attendance: Julie Allison and Doug Johnson

Members by phone: Brian Fox, Jennifer Sievert, Evan Klenk, Mike Mitchell, Chris Secrist, and Pat Penning

Members not in attendance: Wendy Rickman, Mindy Norwood, Carol Gutchewsky, Barb Gay, Nola Aalberts, and Jean Slaybaugh

Observers in attendance: None

Observers by phone: None

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to review the CWPC Strategic Plan and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

The Iowa CWPC Strategic Plan was approved in January 2012 and posted to the CWPC website. The Strategic Plan was reviewed for activities/tasks completed as well as those that are coming due.

On August 9th, a summary of the partnership survey, the survey results, and core questions were provided to DHS SAMs, SWAs, Program Managers, and Child Welfare Service Contractors on behalf of the CWPC. There was discussion on the roll out of local area conversations regarding the partnership survey results. The Western Service Area is reportedly the only service area to have shared and discussed partnership survey results and indicators at a local level. It was noted that roll out of this would occur over time dependent upon when partnership meetings are held within the services areas. The Des Moines and Northern Service Areas have not held local meetings since the results were provided. Each CWPC member was tasked with taking the survey results as well as the partnership indicators to ensure this becomes an agenda item to be reviewed and/or discussed at the next local collaborative meetings. Each of the eight (8) Service Areas will share the survey results and use these results and partnership indicators to help determine the strength of the partnership at local levels throughout the state.

The Department awaits an estimate on Phase II of ROM (Results Oriented Management) which is relative to the inclusion of in-home cases as well as external reports, etc. Once the estimate is received, it will be submitted to Casey to determine the amount of funding Casey will subsidize for this phase. If Casey is not able to subsidize the entire estimate, the Department will explore other funding sources to subsidize the remaining amount. There was discussion that instead of trying to re-create the wheel on ROM/Data collection and monitoring, identified DHS staff met with Kansas University and other states in attempt to gain knowledge into current practices and the common need regarding in-home reports in order to use resources efficiently. In other words,

if five (5) states want the same report, it makes sense to produce those first so there may be a cost savings to all states. The ROM group is optimistic about the progress being made.

The Regional Office authorized the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI) to move forward with an assessment regarding additional Technical Assistance (TA) to be provided to the CWPC. The assessment will allow NRCOI an opportunity to gather additional information and determine the best approach to provide TA. The intent of this additional TA will be to continue through the strategic planning process and to create a long term, more sustainable strategic plan to include major state initiatives. A copy of the TA application was provided to CWPC members to read through for specifics on the request. CWPC members in attendance were pleased that the request was approved and the next steps would include Brian, Mindy, and Wendy to meet with NRCOI to determine the next action step. CWPC members were informed that once a conference call is completed, they would be updated on the recommended next steps and allowed to give input into possible next steps as well.

There was follow up discussion regarding the Action Plan developed from the Casey peer to peer Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC) on Performance Based Contracting (PBC). The Action Plan identified two (2) tasks specific to Family Team Decision Making (FTDM):

- Explore a statewide contract for Family Team Decision Making (to be shared with the DHS Service Business Team (SBT) for review and comment)
 - Julie indicated that she took the proposed plan to SBT in attempt to explore the feasibility of moving forward. Julie identified one of the 1st steps would include establishing a statewide consistency in the FTDM standards and felt good about the direction that they were going.
- Explore and discuss a readiness assessment for a statewide performance based contract on Family Team Decision Making
 - Chris indicated that one of the key focuses would be to re-evaluate our current Performance Incentives for FSRP services (Action Plan task #1). There was some confusion as to the CWPC's role and responsibility regarding this task moving forward.
 - Further discussion tabled until the next meeting in October

There are two (2) additional tasks identified on the Action Plan to include:

- Explore/reevaluate performance incentives on Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services (analyze aggregate data vs. case by case data)
- Explore/reevaluate performance incentives on other performance based contracts
 - Statewide research to determine if aggregate data is really getting to outcomes in all service areas.
 - How do we get oversight of sub-contractors?
 - What is built into sub-contractors PBC measurements and what QA is in place?

A brief update was provided on the CFSR PIP. Julie reported that we are at the end of the 4th quarter which means that we are half way there! Quarterly submissions are occurring and all reports from our federal partners have been positive. The calls continue to occur with the next one slated for October.

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. Chris indicated that standards have been drafted for Family Interaction and will be made available for review/comment in the next month or so once the core group finalizes a draft to be shared. We are also looking at identifying training needs for the Family Interaction curriculum and how to best roll out that training throughout the state. Although the monthly calls with the larger group have been cancelled lately, a core group of FI/FTDM members have been working very hard at establishing FTDM standards, looking at creative ways to carry out updated training for 2000+ FTDM trainers, and determining the best way to track those who have been trained. A proposal was provided to SBT for review which included the re-approval process for FTDM training and the idea of having one set of combined standards for FTDM and Iowa Youth Dream Teams rather than two separate sets of standards documents. Now that the FTDM standards have been set and submitted, it has been identified that our readiness for roll-out is a ways out. Chris indicated needing “data on FTDM standards”. Once this is received, then the next steps would include looking at the logistics of training, carrying out the training, and then evaluating the progress/outcomes of the roll-out.

Training – The last meeting was held on August 17th with the next one scheduled for September 21st. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to ensure that the identified objectives are being met within the annual plan. Chris and Mike indicated that their recent work has been fruitful as evidenced by being able to reconcile what used to be multiple different training calendars into one joint training calendar. Chris reminded the CWPC that both Carol and Chris will be off of the CWPC in June so a transition plan and linking plan for the training group and the CWPC membership will need to be discussed. There was also discussion around the role of the joint training subcommittee. Chris indicated that there continues to be confusion as to the role that this joint committee plays in the overall picture of training. This item was shelved until October 11th but CWPC members were encouraged to bring their thoughts and ideas to the next meeting on the role of this joint committee moving forward.

Next steps:

1. Work will continue on objectives and activities within the Strategic Plan.
2. Julie will work with Mindy to see if we can publish the survey results as well as the Partnership Indicators on the DHS/CWPC website for a centralized reference point.
3. Chris will provide a copy of the Family Interaction Standards once the core group has finalized a draft copy.
4. Chris, Mike, and Mindy are being asked to provide initial documentation that stemmed from the formulation of the joint committee to help us better understand the role of this group.
5. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for October 11th, 2012.

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.