

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Jennifer Sievert, Cheryl Plank, Wendy Rickman, Tom Bouska, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Rick Venenga

Members by phone: Mike Mitchell, Dawn Turner, and Mike Arndt

Members not in attendance: Jon Wetlaufer, Julie Allison, Holly Karr White, 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 was to welcome a new member to the committee and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

The Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa Board of Directors selected Cheryl Plank, VP of Programs and Services, Senior Leadership with Lutheran Services in Iowa to fill the partial membership term vacated by Barb Gay. Cheryl will serve a partial term through June 30, 2017.

Pat Penning retired from the Department effective January 30, 2015. This SAM membership term will remain vacant at this time. The Department is in the process of hiring two SAMs, one for the Des Moines Service Area and one for the Cedar Rapids Service Area.

The current CWPC strategic plan concluded December 31, 2014. The majority of the activities/tasks were completed as identified in the plan. There are a couple activities/tasks that will be incorporated into the next strategic plan. The next strategic plan will incorporate the follow-up partnership survey from March 2012 and will include analysis of information collected, implementation of the designed partnership module for new worker training, and promote DHS/Contractor/Court collaboration on use of data and information. Casey Family Programs agreed to provide technical assistance to assist in the development of the next strategic plan. The plan is to schedule two days in August 2015 to meet in person.

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 a conference call scheduled for February 23, 2015.

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. 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. The largest point of contention is around substance use/abuse with external partners. Some believe

that DR is the reason for a decline in the number of CINA petitions filed, but this decline started to occur prior to implementation of DR. There are no reported plans for any changes at this time.

The 2015 Legislative Session began January 12, 2015. An update was provided on House File 86, House Study Bill 125, and House File 98.

Wendy asked that when Contractors use DHS information as part of their presentations to legislators and/or other stakeholders, to provide that ahead of time for review to ensure that the most current and accurate information is captured.

There was some discussion regarding the Children's Mental Health Redesign, including a discussion around infant mental health. Wendy mentioned a website with information on the Children's Research Triangle (CRT) and Dr. Ira Chasnoff. Information on this topic can be accessed at the following: <http://www.childstudy.org/>

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. A conference call was held on 1.6.15 with the joint training committee members. The committee members reviewed the current charter and made a recommendation to modify the language by adding “oversight and” under deliverables to read as follows:

- Workgroup will assist as needed in oversight and implementation of training including but not limited to training related to Iowa's Blueprint for Permanence, Family Interaction, Family Team Meetings, Parent Partners, and any additional evidence-based practices in child welfare.

The CWPC members approved this modification to the charter.

Next steps:

1. Mindy will send out a doodle poll identifying potential dates in August for technical assistance to provide Casey Family Programs.
 - a. Doodle poll was sent on 2.16.15 with a close date of 2.27.15.
2. As of this date, the planning committee for the 2015 annual statewide meeting includes Julie Allison, Holly Karr-White, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Mike Mitchell, and Mindy Norwood.
3. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 12, 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.