

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Hoover Building, 5th Floor - NE, Side 1

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Janee Harvey, Wendy Rickman, Kaci O'Day Goldstein, Mike McInroy, Rick Venenga, Tom Bouska, Susan Smalley, and Debbie Orduna

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

Members not in attendance: Mary Macumber Schmidt, Jon Wetlaufer, Leta Hosier, and Jean Slaybaugh

Observers in attendance: No observers in attendance or by phone

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting this month was to introduce Susan Smalley as the newest Non-Coalition member to the committee, review and update the three-year strategic plan, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

Prior to the CWPC meeting, Susan Smalley participated in an orientation with Wendy Rickman, Mike Mitchell, and Mindy Norwood.

Susan Smalley, Director of FSRP Services with Mid Iowa Family Therapy Clinic (MIFTC) introduced herself to members of this committee and provided information on her personal and professional background.

The current strategic plan was reviewed but there is still work to be done on identifying leads, others to be involved, and timelines for some of the focus areas and tasks which will be updated as those areas are identified. Once the columns are completed, the plan will be submitted to all CWPC members for review, modifications, and approval. As with all prior strategic plans, the current strategic plan will be posted to the CWPC webpage once completed/finalized and updated accordingly.

There was a report out on the local service area meetings that occur around the state. All shared that meetings occur with some occurring monthly and others quarterly or when the need arises. The local service area meetings continue to expand with invitations to accommodate more disciplines to be at the table for discussion. The Des Moines service area has a meeting scheduled in the fall that will occur at the new courthouse. The Western service area has a meeting scheduled next week. The Northern service area trained both DHS and FSRP staff on family interaction. The Cedar Rapids service area continues to roll out information from the LEAN event on stability. There was no representation from the Eastern service area to report out at this meeting.

An update was provided on the SafeCare Effectiveness Research Project/Application process. Mid Iowa Family Therapy Clinic (MIFTC) began implementing SafeCare in Iowa on July 1, 2016 for both Community Care and FSRP Services in the Des Moines Service Area. Four Oaks, CFI, and SWIAFAC began implementing SafeCare September 1, 2016 through completion of orientation and training as well beginning the process of enrolling families into SafeCare. There has been a lot of positive feedback from staff trained to become SafeCare providers and are looking forward to working with families to implement the modules. Rick shared that Families First Counseling has been in contact with Georgia State to explore the possibility of becoming another selected SafeCare site in Iowa.

Wendy provided updates on child welfare legislative pre-files and shared that there was a budget presentation to council.

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 shared that the last meeting of this workgroup focused on updating sections of the strategic plan. This information will be provided to Mindy to update within the plan.

Child Welfare Services Workforce – Co-chairs are Mike McInroy and Debbie Orduna. Debbie shared that this workgroup recently met on 8.31.16 and provided the committee members with a written summary of the discussion that occurred. The workgroup members identified a completion date of 8.31.16 for 1.1.4 of the current strategic plan. In reviewing the staff qualification requirements for each contract, the workgroup members found more similarities than anticipated. The group agreed it is important to have a certain level of standards within the field and balance this with the need to diversify workforce with those who have lived the experience. The group members identified differences between policy and practices, and agreed that the charter for this workgroup will focus on policy.

Communication – Co-chairs are Janee Harvey and Rick Venenga. Rick shared that he compiled the list of the primary local meetings identified around the state. The group will review who leads/facilitates these meetings and who is invited. Once the group meets again, members will begin to identify key messages to share at these meetings as well as who will be the persons taking those messages to the meetings.

Next steps:

1. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for October 13, 2016.
2. Mike Mitchell will provide updates from the joint training workgroup to incorporate into the current strategic plan.
3. The planning committee for the annual statewide child welfare services meeting will begin working on developing an agenda, securing a location, etc. for 2017.
 - a. The planning committee members include Rick Venenga, Kaci O’Day Goldstein, Mike McInroy, Mindy Norwood, and one other DHS member to be determined.
4. The Family First Act will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

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.