

## **Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)**

### **Meeting Notes**

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

**Members in attendance:** Mindy Norwood, Wendy Rickman, Mike McInroy, Mike Mitchell, Cheryl Plank, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Debbie Orduna, and Kaci O'Day Goldstein

**Members by phone:** Tom Bouska, Leta Hosier, and Andrew Allen

**Members not in attendance:** Jon Wetlaufer, Dawn Turner, Rick Venenga, and Jean Slaybaugh

**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 welcome new committee members, update and approve membership guidelines, review the draft strategic plan, and provide general updates.

#### **Summary of Meeting:**

The committee welcomed two new DHS members, Leta Hosier and Mike McInroy, and two new Non-Coalition members, Kaci O'Day Goldstein and Andrew Allen. Leta is a Social Work Administrator (SWA) in the Eastern Service Area and Mike is a Service Area Manager (SAM) in the Des Moines Service Area. Kaci is the Executive Director with the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (IFAPA) and Andrew is Chief Executive Officer with Youth & Shelter Services (YSS). At this time, only one vacancy remains on the committee for DHS representation which will be filled once a new Bureau Chief is hired in the Division of Adult, Children, and Family Services within Hoover. The membership contact list was updated to include new members/terms. The membership guidelines were reviewed, amended, and approved to include a couple language changes. These updated documents will be posted to the CWPC website.

Wendy initiated a brief discussion around translator/interpreter services and inquired to the availability and capacity of accessing these services. She shared that she will be asking the Program Managers to add this topic to the contractor quarterly meeting agenda for further discussion on identifying what issues/barriers that contractors are experiencing, identifying any specific languages that are more difficult to access translation service, what are resources currently being accessed to provide these services, where are these resources located, etc.

The CWPC members spent two days meeting with Casey Family Programs during the month of August to gather information for the creation of the next strategic plan. Casey Family Programs created a draft plan based upon the feedback received during the planning session. A copy of the draft strategic plan was provided to committee members for initial review and feedback. The goals and tasks were identified and documented for the majority of the focus areas, but there is one goal that we need to develop the identified tasks. The CWPC members will also be responsible for identifying the lead, others to be involved, timeline, and completion date. At this time, members were asked for feedback on the content behind the identified focus areas and tasks to ensure what was captured in the plan accurately reflects the conversations that occurred during the August planning session. All were in agreement to the content behind the plan but asked that we do more work with identifying timelines before we start to finalize the plan with leads and identifying others to be involved. Wendy and Mindy will meet to go

over the plan to begin identifying overarching timelines to propose to the members prior to the next meeting.

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. It was reported that since the onset of these local area meetings, the conversations have moved away from the primary focus on technical changes/issues and is now focused more on service delivery. There was some discussion regarding FSRP Service Plans and Family Interaction Plans that will continue in other forums. The committee members were asked for their opinions of how they see Iowa's Service Array from a systemic standpoint. There have been a lot of successes and there are good things in all of the respective contracts, but there needs to be continued work on collaborative efforts in working together across the contracts. There are a lot of relationships that continue to grow stronger but there needs to be additional work at the front line level.

There was a brief legislative update provided to include federal legislation on Human Trafficking and upcoming rule changes.

There continue to be conversations around Differential Response (DR) but no new updates at this time. The next round of Differential Response (DR) data is projected to be provided mid to late February 2016. Information on DR can be accessed at the following:

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

There were two Oklahoma articles on Iowa and Iowa's CWPC. The first article was published October 30, 2015 stating that Iowa was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for child welfare and identified collaborative efforts. Click on the following link to read this article:

[http://newsok.com/whats-going-on-in-iowa-for-children/article/5457343?custom\\_click=rss](http://newsok.com/whats-going-on-in-iowa-for-children/article/5457343?custom_click=rss)

The second article was published November 12, 2015 which speaks primarily to the collaborative efforts of Iowa's Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC). Click on the following link to read this article:

<http://m.newsok.com/article/5459957>

**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. The Six Principles of Partnership was a breakout session during the annual statewide meeting on 6.4.15. Mike shared that there were approximately 60 people who signed up at the session to take the lead in their local areas to carry the message forward. The Joint Training Committee members will assist the leads in supporting the message of the principles of partnership. There was additional follow up with the leads and members of the Joint Training Committee. All information obtained from this follow up is being provided to Mike who is collecting and compiling the feedback to be shared at a later date. Mike shared one common theme from the feedback is that there is much richer, in-depth conversations taking place when the presentation is done in partnership.

Besides the Joint Training Committee, additional discussion occurred regarding training in general. A lot of positive feedback was received regarding the statewide community days for the Safe & Together

Model and training provided. Mike Mitchell was appreciative that SP/FSRP representatives were invited as part of the core team to be involved with this training.

**Next steps:**

1. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for January 14, 2016.
2. The CWPC webpage will be updated to reflect the new membership contact list and membership guidelines.
3. The DHS Program Managers will add the topic of translator/interpreter services to the ongoing quarterly contractor meeting agenda for additional discussions.
4. Mindy and Wendy will meet to tentatively draft incomplete sections of the strategic plan to share with committee members for further review and discussion to occur in January.
  - a. If members have any ideas for identified tasks under goal 3 under the first focus area, please send those directly to Mindy so she can take with her in meeting with Wendy.
5. A copy of the AMP 2016 legislative agenda will be provided to CWPC members.

**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.