

## Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

### Meeting Notes

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

**Members in attendance:** Mindy Norwood, Jon Wetlaufer, Tom Bouska, Pat Penning, and Mike Arndt

**Members by phone:** Barb Gay, Mike Mitchell, Jennifer Sievert, Julie Allison, Dawn Turner, Holly Karr White, and Nola Aalberts

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Macumber Schmidt, Wendy Rickman, and Rick Venenga

**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 provide a brief update on the Strategic Plan, select a new private co-chair, and provide general updates.

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

This is the final meeting for Barb Gay as she is starting a new position with Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC). Since ASAC does not currently have child welfare service contracts, her membership term ends this month. The Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa is currently in the process of seeking applicants to fill Barb's remaining term through 6.30.17. Applications are due to Kristie Oliver by January 2, 2015. Once applications are received, the Coalition's Nominating Committee will review and make a recommendation to the Coalition's Board of Directors. Jennifer Sievert agreed to step in as the private co-chair through 6.30.15 and the committee approved.

Pat Penning, Des Moines Service Area Manager (SAM) announced her retirement from the Department effective January 30, 2015.

A copy of the strategic plan is currently posted to the CWPC website so those outside of the committee can track the progress on achievement of identified goals and objectives. The current two-year strategic plan concludes December 2014. The majority of the activities/tasks were completed as identified in the plan. The CWPC members agreed to carry over a couple of the activities/tasks into the next strategic plan. The next strategic plan will incorporate the follow-up partnership survey from March 2012 (1.1.6) and will include analysis of information collected, implementation of the designed partnership module for new worker training (1.2.2), and promote DHS/Contractor/Court collaboration on use of data and information (2.2.1 - 2.2.3). We are still in the process of securing additional technical assistance and will try to coordinate with Casey Family Programs.

There was a brief discussion on the placement stability review. In September, there was a case reading group that reviewed random cases from across the entire state. This group identified case specific areas as well as systemic areas that were strengths as well as areas needing improvement. The DHS Service Business Team (SBT) is in the process of reviewing the themes identified from the review. A couple of the strengths identified included Family Team Decision-Making meetings and keeping siblings together. A couple areas needing improvement included transportation and concurrent planning. There are no next steps or strategies identified at this time. There should be a summary provided sometime after the first of the year.

The 2015 Legislative Session begins January 12, 2015.

**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.* The co-chairs shared that the plan is to roll out the training on the Six Principles of Partnership in the spring of 2015. The Joint Training Committee members will provide feedback at the next meeting on the proposed curriculum. Once feedback is received, the two co-chairs will then report out to the planning committee for the annual statewide meeting to determine the best way to incorporate the message into new worker training. This requires commitment from all partners to carry the message forward. The next conference call for the Joint Training subcommittee is scheduled for 1.6.15.

**Next steps:**

1. The current two-year Strategic Plan concludes December 2014. There are a couple activities/tasks that will carry over into the next Strategic Plan. The completed Strategic Plan will be posted to the CWPC webpage.
  - a. Secure a facilitator through Casey Family Programs for additional technical assistance for creation of a new Strategic Plan.
2. As of this date, the planning committee for the 2015 annual statewide meeting includes Julie Allison, Holly Karr-White, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Mike Mitchell.
  - a. Mike and Dawn will report to this planning committee after the meeting of the Joint Training Committee on 1.6.15.
3. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for January 8, 2014 from 1-3:00 p.m.
  - a. This will be Pat Penning's last meeting as a CWPC member.

**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.