

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Wendy Rickman, Mike Mitchell, Debbie Orduna, Kaci O'Day Goldstein, Jon Wetlaufer, Dawn Turner, and Tom Bouska

Members by phone: Cheryl Plank, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Rick Venenga

Members not in attendance: Janee Harvey, Leta Hosier, Mike McInroy, Andrew Allen, 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 review draft workgroup charters and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There were two new charters developed for workgroups per the strategic plan which were reviewed by committee members. The first charter is specific to child welfare services workforce. The purpose of this workgroup is to ensure competent and skilled staff to fully meet contractual terms of service. There were questions as to whether this charter should also include exploring the public side of skilled staff. It was determined that in the short term, the charter will focus on the private side of child welfare services and as the group moves forward, explore including the public side as well. The committee reviewed the goals and the outcomes of the workgroup and agreed that the charter met the identified needs as outlined in the strategic plan. This workgroup will move forward with identifying additional members and timelines for projected completion dates. The second charter is specific to communication. The purpose of this workgroup is to establish a communication structure to regularly disseminate information regarding CWPC activities and gather practice information pertinent to the committee's work from other stakeholders. The committee reviewed the goals and outcomes of the workgroup and agreed that the charter met the identified needs as outlined in the strategic plan. This workgroup will move forward with identifying additional members and timelines for projected completion dates.

The current draft strategic plan is being updated with additional information and once completed, it will be provided to the committee members for their review and approval during 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. Tom reported that the Western Service Area met and has some recommendations on suggestions for changes to the FSRP Service Plan which will be provided to Mindy as the SP/FSRP Services Program Manager. Mike Mitchell talked briefly about the Stability LEAN event that took place in Cedar Rapids. Mary reminded everyone of the Stability LEAN event that was completed in the Eastern Service Area in the past. Rick and Dawn discussed what was working well in the Northern Service Area and what they are doing to decrease identified barriers.

The planning for the 2016 annual child welfare statewide meeting is approaching and Debbie Orduna, Rick Venenga, and Janee Harvey are the members who volunteered to be on the planning committee.

There was a brief legislative update provided to include some key topics which include proposed legislation to expand the current definition of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) as well as Medicaid. There was also discussion regarding the proposed Family First Act and the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) education bill.

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>

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 and Dawn provided a brief update on the joint training workgroup activities. The members of this joint workgroup continue following up with identified point persons on the Six Principles of Partnership power point to see where individuals and organizations are since initially implementing this after the June statewide meeting. 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.

There was conversation regarding the purpose of this group as well as a revisit of the charter. This group may play a more active role in the strategic plan as we move forward. Dawn and Mike followed up with Michelle Tyrrel (DHS Training Committee) and Martha Munro (Child Welfare Provider Training Academy Workgroup) to gather information related to current charters and/or contract requirements to see how they align with the charter of this joint training group.

Child Welfare Services Workforce – Newly developed workgroup so no update at this time. The identified CWPC members are in process of identifying non-CWPC members for this group.

Communication – Newly developed workgroup so no update at this time. The identified CWPC members are in process of identifying non-CWPC members for this group.

Next steps:

1. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for February 11, 2016.
2. The current draft strategic plan will be updated and provided to the committee members for further review and discussion prior to the February meeting.
3. The planning committee for the 2016 annual statewide meeting includes Janee, Rick, and Debbie. If there are any other volunteers to be on this committee, notify Mindy.
 - a. Schedule conference calls to identify proposed dates, times, locations, attendees, topics, etc.
4. Email reviews of the Family First Act as well as information on the CWAC education bill.

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.