

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Wendy Rickman, Janee Harvey, Mike Mitchell, Kaci O'Day Goldstein, Andrew Allen, Rick Venenga, and Mike McInroy

Members by phone: Leta Hosier

Members not in attendance: Cheryl Plank, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Jon Wetlaufer, Dawn Turner, Tom Bouska, Debbie Orduna, 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 finalize and approve the new workgroup charters, the three-year strategic plan, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

The committee welcomed the newest DHS member, Janee Harvey. Janee is the new Bureau Chief for Child Welfare and Community Services with the Division of Adult, Children, and Family Services. She comes from Brooklyn, New York and shared her child welfare background and experience with the committee members.

The workgroup charters for joint training, workforce, and communication were reviewed, updated, and approved this date. The joint training workgroup is currently active with members attending and participating in regularly scheduled meetings. The respective co-chairs for the two newest workgroups will set meetings and agendas as they begin working on identifying additional members and timelines for completion of identified outcomes for inclusion within the strategic plan.

The current strategic plan was reviewed, updated, and approved this date. 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. As with all prior strategic plans, the current strategic plan will be posted to the CWPC webpage and updated accordingly.

Wendy shared that she and Kristie Oliver both presented to the Health and Human Services Subcommittee this morning on the upcoming Child Welfare Service Procurements and Iowa's Child Welfare System of Care. The power point presentation used to facilitate the discussion will be shared with this committee.

Leta Hosier volunteered to be part of the planning committee for the next annual statewide child welfare contractor/DHS meeting along with Mindy Norwood, Debbie Orduna, Rick Venenga, and Janee Harvey. This small committee will begin scheduling conference calls to identify proposed dates in May and/or June, times, locations, attendees, topics, etc. and will make recommendations to the CWPC.

After the January meeting, materials were provided to CWPC members to review on the Family First Act as well as the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) Education Bill. The members were provided an opportunity to ask any follow up questions they may have after reviewing the materials. There were no questions to date.

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. Mike McInroy reported that there has been a lot of turnover in the Des Moines Service Area so these meetings have been used to engage new relationships as well as re-establish relationships. Andrew added that from the meetings he's attended in the Des Moines Service Area, the environment has been positive and allows opportunities to provide input, share successes, and identify barriers. Mike added that Decat contracts have been invited to participate in these local area meetings as well. Leta Hosier reported that there is a meeting scheduled with all of the contractors for the Eastern Service Area this coming Monday, 2.15.16.

There was a legislative update to include some key topics which include proposed legislation to expand the current definition of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) as well as Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. The Iowa legislative language for Sex Trafficking was pulled directly from the federal legislation that was signed into law in September 2014. Under this legislation, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) for children under the age of 16 is no longer an option. However, in some areas, some believe it is appropriate for APPLA on children who are 13 and 14 years of age. If APPLA is ordered on a child under the age of 16, and just because DHS doesn't recommend, our federal partners will not approve because judges are part of the system. There is also some reported push back from foster parents regarding the reasonable and prudent parent standard and whether foster parents will be held liable in certain situations. Next week is the first funnel which means that February 19th is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills out of House Committees.

There was a brief discussion regarding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and Juvenile Court Services (JCS). These funds can only be used for tracking and monitoring effective July 1, 2016 and cannot be used for delivery of service. There was also a brief discussion on the subsidized guardianship bill. In relation to the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), the Senate passed stoppage of the contracts which will now go to the House side in a companion bill. The program will begin March 1, 2016 pending final approval.

The Differential Response (DR) System Overview for Calendar Year 2015 is scheduled to be released to the public on Monday, 2.15.16. A copy of this report will be provided to the CWPC members and all information on DR can be accessed at the following:
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/differential-response>

There was discussion around how to disseminate the DR report and to include conversations with frontline DHS field and provider staff. There was also the mention of including a discussion at the next annual statewide meeting to walk through the DR data.

Mike Mitchell shared that he participated in the SafeCare webinar hosted by Georgia State earlier this week and was impressed with the information provided. Janee provided a summary of SafeCare from her experiences in New York as a Home Visitor including the evidence based background and outcomes.

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 this workgroup did not meet in February so there is nothing new to update at this time on workgroup activities. The charter for this training workgroup was updated, reviewed, and approved by the CWPC members. The plan is to include follow up on the Six Principles of Partnership during the next annual statewide meeting.

Child Welfare Services Workforce – Co-chairs are Mike McInroy and Cheryl Plank. The two co-chairs will set meetings and agendas as they begin working on identifying additional members and timelines for completion of identified outcomes for inclusion within the strategic plan.

Communication – Co-chairs are Janee Harvey and Rick Venenga. The two co-chairs will set meetings and agendas as they begin working on identifying additional members and timelines for completion of identified outcomes for inclusion within the strategic plan.

Next steps:

1. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 10, 2016.
2. The planning committee for the 2016 annual statewide meeting includes Mindy, Janee, Rick, Leta, and Debbie.
 - a. Mindy will send an email to the planning committee to identify dates to begin planning for the statewide meeting to identify proposed dates, times, locations, attendees, topics, etc.
3. Provide a copy of Calendar Year 2015 Differential Response report.
 - a. **Included in 2.15.16 email.**
4. Provide a copy of the power point utilized in the presentation to the Health and Human Services Subcommittee.
 - a. **Included in 2.15.16 email.**

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.