

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 11th, 2013

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

Members in attendance: Wendy Rickman, Mindy Norwood, Evan Klenk, and Carol Gutchewsky

Members by phone: Pat Penning, Jennifer Sievert, and Chris Secrist

Members not in attendance: Nola Aalberts, Jean Slaybaugh, Julie Allison, Doug Johnson, Mike Mitchel, Brian Fox, and Barb Gay

Observers in attendance: Kristie Oliver, Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize new membership and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

The new DHS members include Tom Bouska (SAM) from the Western Service Area and Dawn Turner (SWA) from the Northern Service Area for terms effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016. The new Coalition members include Mary Macumber-Schmidt, Vice President with Family Resources, Inc. from the Eastern Service Area and Rick Venenga, Managing Partner with Families First Counseling from the Northern as well as Eastern Service Areas. Two applications for Non-Coalition membership were received but there was no vote due to the small number of members in attendance.

Due to Brian's membership expiring this June, there is a vacancy for private co-chair. Barb Gay was selected to be the new co-chair effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is currently posted to the CWPC website and will be shared outside of this committee. In reviewing the plan to date, all tasks are on target for completion.

Committee members shared current practices and strategies for improving outcomes. In the Northern Service Area, there are five workgroups addressing consistency in practice and working jointly with CFSR goals. They are identifying topics for local training. In looking at data, this service area is reviewing the report card and digital dashboard to set goals. In the Western Service Area, the local DHS/Contractor meetings review specific indicators and always hone in on placement stability and the number of children/youth in care.

There was a brief update on Differential Response (DR). The original DR work group who drafted the recommendations to Legislature had a meeting scheduled for April 9th which was canceled but rescheduled to a later date. An email will be sent to child welfare service contractors/providers on behalf of the CWPC to ask for volunteers to participate in the following workgroups:

1. Communications/Marketing
2. Training
3. Performance Measures/Surveys

The estimated time commitment for these workgroups is approximately 10 hours per month with one face to face meeting and other communications via email and conference calls. If the number of recommended individuals interested is higher than the required number for the workgroup, there will be a process implemented for the selection of representatives.

A brief update was provided on the CFSR PIP. We are currently in Quarter 7. A copy of all Executive Summaries can be accessed on the DHS website.

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:

Family Interaction (FI)/Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) – This workgroup continues working diligently on benchmarks identified within the PIP and has submitted evidence of completion documents timely to the DHS Service Business Team (SBT) as required. The primary focus of the workgroup this quarter is around developing and/or revising current DHS policy/manual, forms, and training. The FI/FTDM met on March 27th to finalize FTDM and Family Interaction forms as well as Manual/Policy references. These forms have been shared broadly for comment. The FTDM forms are ready for review/approval of the DHS Service Business Team (SBT); however, the Family Interaction forms sent out for review generated some questions and concerns so the committee will continue to revise those forms to accommodate some of the suggestions/feedback received to date. Once the committee believes those forms are ready to submit, they will be provided to SBT for review/approval. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15th with another subgroup to begin working on training around the FTDM Refresher course as well as FTDM/YTDM Coaching and Mentoring.

Training – Carol provided the committee with a copy of the most recent notes from the Joint Training Committee. At one point, the meetings were changed to Fridays to accommodate some of the others, but since this change, attendance has not been all that great. The committee is currently in the process of identifying a different day to conduct these meetings in order to accommodate the majority of members.

Next steps:

1. The Strategic Plan will be shared in an email on behalf of the CWPC to internal and external stakeholders. A copy has already been posted to the CWPC webpage.
2. Mindy will send out an email to the committee members to cast their vote for one of the two applicants for Non-Coalition membership.
 - a. Responses due to Mindy by Friday, April 26th.
3. An email will go out to child welfare service contractors/providers on behalf of the CWPC to ask for volunteers to participate in the identified DR workgroups.
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for May 9th from 1-3:00 p.m.

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.