

**Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)**

**Meeting Notes**

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

**Members in attendance:** Wendy Rickman, Mindy Norwood, Doug Johnson, and Julie Allison

**Members by phone:** Mike Mitchel, Brian Fox, Barb Gay, Nola Aalberts, Jennifer Sievert, Chris Secrist, Evan Klenk, and Carol Gutchewsky

**Members not in attendance:** Pat Penning and Jean Slaybaugh

**Observers in attendance:** None

**Purpose of the Meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting was to review the Strategic Plan and provide general updates.

**Summary of Meeting:**

The five new members of the CWPC will be invited to participate in an “orientation” prior to the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The committee members agreed that Wendy and Mindy would review committee membership/application process and bring recommendation on revisions to the June meeting.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is currently posted to the CWPC website and was shared outside of this committee. There was a request to post the plan with the inclusion of the updated “completion dates” to the website so that those outside of the committee can track the progress on achievement of identified goals.

In reviewing the plan to date, all tasks are on target for completion. Objective 1.1.1 is currently in process as Wendy is finalizing the document identifying group structures that currently exist across the state. Objectives 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 have been completed with the following tentative updated work plan/timeline for ROM activities from the Casey perspective:

January - March 2013:

- Internal work preparation for public facing website and in-home services.

April - June 2013:

- Additional internal work preparation for multi-state in-home data project
- Publish public facing website

July - Sept 2013:

- In-home services report published for internal use

October - December 2013:

- Publish provider portal

A lot of the DHS Division of Data Management (DDM) developer resources are being pushed to the Income Maintenance (IM) side through the ELIAS project. However, DDM is continues to work on ROM as prioritized.

An email was sent to child welfare service contractors/providers on behalf of the CWPC asking for volunteers to participate in three of the five identified workgroups. There were eleven (11) volunteers that expressed interest. The workgroups will be finalized the week of May 13<sup>th</sup> and notice will be provided. The Differential Response (DR) bill passed with amendments. There were some County Attorney issues and concerns expressed by Steve Scott (PCA Iowa) and Kristie Oliver (Coalition) but these were worked out and resolved. There are no anticipated problems to get the Governor to sign. The implementation date remains as January 1, 2014. There was a question to one of the Senate amendments requiring providers to call in to the hotline if a family is not following their treatment plan. The current criteria remains the same for CPS or CINA Assessments but there is a need for training on expectations of what roles are regarding the standards. There is no additional requirement of the providers other than what is currently required of them as mandatory reporters.

A brief update was provided on the CFSR PIP. We are currently in Quarter 7 which goes through June 2013. A copy of all Executive Summaries can be accessed on the DHS website.

A legislative update was also provided. There was brief discussion on the County Attorney bill as well as the Budget bill.

The Department is currently in contract negotiations with Parent Partners, Drug Testing both lab and collection, as well as prevention grants.

**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/Youth Transition Decision-Making (YTDM) – This workgroup continues working diligently on benchmarks identified within the PIP and submits evidence of completion documents timely to the DHS Service Business Team (SBT) as required. The following email, in part, was sent out to FTDM/YTDM facilitators, DHS SAMs/SWAs/Supervisors to share with all SW2s and SW3s, and other external stakeholders (Courts, Judges, County Attorneys, GALs, Parents Attorneys, Public Defenders, Tribal Courts, JCS Chiefs, CASA, FCRB, etc.):*

*In the 2010 Iowa Child and Family Service Review (CFSR), our federal partners identified Family Team Decision-Making (FTDM) and Family Interaction (FI) as promising practices, but identified lack of consistency as a concern. In response, our DHS Service Business Team (SBT) chartered a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) workgroup to review the practice of Family Team Decision-Making across the state, create a standard approval and re-approval process, review our existing FTDM standards & handbook, identify barriers, including barriers to preparation and consistency in practice.*

*Our workgroup composed of DHS and our partners/stakeholders and parents, have worked hard to address practice and consistency. There has been widespread and broad review of the products outside the group. At the completion of the review and feedback process the final products have been approved by SBT. The revised FTDM standards and new Youth Transition Decision-Making (YTDM) standards have been merged. Standardized forms were developed that will be utilized statewide to improve consistency. The facilitator approval process remains as it is currently. An interim facilitator re-approval process as well as a future ongoing facilitator re-approval process has been developed.*

*The interim facilitator re-approval process is simple. All approved Family Team Decision-Making facilitators must attend a 90 minute refresher course by June 30, 2013. The refresher course will be offered via webinar and will share new FTDM/YTDM standards, Family Interaction standards, the forms to be used statewide, and the future facilitator re-approval process.*

*The refresher course, CC 350 Family Team & Youth Transition Decision-Making (FTDM/YTDM) Meeting Facilitator Refresher Training, will be offered via a live webinar four (4) times. The dates and times are:*

<i>Wednesday, May 15, 2013</i>	<i>10:00-11:30 AM or 1:30- 3:00 PM</i>
<i>Thursday, May 23, 2013</i>	<i>10:00-11:30 AM or 1:30- 3:00 PM</i>

*The webinar will be recorded and available on the DHS training website along with a post-test for those not able to attend one of the live webinars through June 30, 2013. Upon completion of the webinar, current facilitators will be re-approved for the two (2) year period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.*

There will also be a 45 minute webinar held on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-9:45 a.m. specific to Judicial and other external stakeholders. This webinar will also be recorded for viewing.

All FTDM forms have been reviewed and approved by SBT. These forms are still draft until they are approved for publishing. The training identifies a target date of July 1, but not certain if this will be accomplished. In the meantime, areas will continue to use the forms they do to date until receive notification to begin using the new forms for consistency across the state.

The Family Interaction Plan along with Roles and Responsibilities was recently updated taking into account comments received from across the state. The updated form was emailed out again today for further review prior to submitting to SBT for review/approval. The FI committee is also in the process of developing an “observation tool” for family interactions. Once that is completed, it will be provided for further review as well.

*Training* – The last meeting of this committee was held in April with no future meeting scheduled to date. The committee is still in the process of identifying a different day to conduct these meetings in order to accommodate the majority of members.

### **Next steps:**

1. The statewide child welfare All Contractor meeting is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 – 2:30 p.m.
2. All five new members will be invited to the June meeting and will schedule a time for orientation prior to the June meeting.
  - a. Will ask new members to volunteer to work with Chris and Doug on a portion of the Strategic Plan.
    - i. Barb Gay, Evan Klenk, and Brian Fox volunteered to participate if no one else was willing to do so.

3. As the Strategic Plan is updated with completion dates of achieved activities/tasks, it will be posted to the CWPC webpage.
4. On behalf of the CWPC, the selection of child welfare service contractors/provider representatives for the three DR work groups will be selected and notified the week of May 13, 2013.
5. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for June 13, 2013 from 1-3:00 p.m.
  - a. Wendy and Julie will walk the committee through the DR chart used with legislators.

**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.