

## **Child Welfare Partners Committee**

### **Meeting Notes**

Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2012

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

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

**Members by phone:** Carol Gutchewsky, Jennifer Sievert, Barb Gay, and Brian Fox

**Members not in attendance:** Wendy Rickman, Jean Slaybaugh, Gary Lippe, Chris Secrist, Cheryl Goodwin, Evan Klenk, and Nola Aalberts

**Observers in attendance:** No observers in attendance.

**Observers by phone:** Martha Munro, Coalition

### **Purpose of the Meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting was to review the CWPC Strategic Plan and next steps as well as provide general updates.

### **Summary of Meeting:**

There will be two new members joining the CWPC with the term effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. Mike Mitchell of Four Oaks is the newest Coalition member and Pat Penning, Des Moines Service Area Manager (SAM) is the newest member for DHS. Julie Allison (DHS) was approved for a second term which will expire June 30, 2015. The DHS term ending June 30, 2014 will continue to remain vacant at this time. The terms for Gary Lippe (DHS) and Cheryl Goodwin (Family Resources) end June 30, 2012.

Through discussion, it was determined that the best way to transition Mike and Pat into the committee is to invite them both to attend the meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> face to face for a brief orientation.

The Iowa CWPC Strategic Plan was approved in January 2012 and posted to the CWPC website. The Strategic Plan was reviewed for activities/tasks completed as well as those that are coming due. There are two outstanding objectives due for completion with March and May dates. Carol reported out on the status of the survey that will be sent out to both DHS and Contractors to collect baseline data on existing partnerships. The survey was actually sent out on Friday, 5.11.12 to DHS SAMs and SWAs as well as Contractors with DHS child welfare contracts. By gathering the baseline data, it will allow the CWPC to identify areas in which we need to concentrate efforts to improve partnerships. The baseline will also allow us to measure over time whether our partnerships are growing stronger. Surveys are to be completed no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>. The next step with this objective is to use the baseline data to develop a core set of partnership questions for groups to consider for facilitating local discussions which is to be completed by July 31, 2012.

The objective with March due dates is currently in process to promote DHS/Contractor/Court collaboration on use of data and information. The workgroup chaired by Gary and Cheryl have been meeting and realize that some of the activities assigned to this group will also overlap with the ROM external workgroup.

The external ROM (Results Oriented Management) workgroup met April 24-26<sup>th</sup> which allowed for good conversations to occur with potential products identified. A presentation of the process and products will be shared with this committee during the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The presentation will last approximately 30 minutes and will allow for questions/answers.

An update was provided on the CFSR PIP. Julie shared that we are currently in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) quarter of the PIP and all workgroups are diligently working on assigned activities. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) quarter benchmarks will be presented to the federal partners May 15<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to send out the Executive Summary to all as well as the link to the reports as we have done in the past. The Service Business Team (SBT) is asking for training need requests scheduled for completion in the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) quarter so the tasks can be assigned to the appropriate group to organize, plan, and facilitate the training, etc.

The only legislative update provided was regarding HF226 on Differential Response. There is currently a workgroup meeting to discuss the process and have met approximately three times to date. A final report is scheduled for completion in December 2012 which will be shared with this committee. Legislators have adjourned for the 2012 session.

The state of Iowa is invited to participate in a Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC) with three other states including Michigan, Washington, and Texas during July 2012. An overview of the SLC methodology:

Building on the strength of Peer Technical Assistance (TA), the Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC) brings multiple jurisdictions together to receive peer technical assistance on a mutual topic of joint interest. The SLC engages jurisdictions in peer-to-peer learning through structured and facilitated discussions, providing the opportunity for multiple jurisdictions to learn from one another in one setting. The methodology also supports the development of individualized action plans to advance implementation efforts at the state and/or local level. The SLC methodology is designed to provide:

- Expanded peer-to-peer learning opportunities allowing jurisdictions to leverage real-time learning;
- Concrete ideas and strategies to advance specific system improvement work efforts; and
- Intentional time devoted to building professional relationships which can be utilized outside of the collaborative experience.

The results of the SLC are consistent with those found in Peer TA:

- Increased knowledge and mutual learning: Discussions will allow for an examination of current resources, trends, strengths, relationships, etc., that will assist in the development of strategies to accelerate systems change. Knowledge is

increased for both the requesting teams and peer consulting teams through the mutual exchange of information.

- Accelerate the pace of change: Sharing of lessons learned in other programs/organizations that have managed similar change efforts will result in acceleration in the pace of change as participants develop innovative strategies; and identify potential challenges and ways to address them.
- Development and implementation of an action plan: Development of an action plan that addresses immediate next steps, including timelines and commitments identified by the requesting team.

During this SLC, there will be two to four jurisdictions identified as Peer Consultants from states with demonstrated expertise based on expressed learning expectations. The SLC will convene for 1 ½ days in which participants will be engaged in several core discussions in large and small groups. Workshops are typically used to disseminate key chunks of information to a large group in a short timeframe. Workshops are followed by “team time” which allows participants to debrief with their colleagues and begin to consider action items. On the second day, TAU staff facilitates the development of an action plan which identifies immediate next steps over the next 30-90 days.

The individuals representing the state of Iowa include:

**DHS**

1. Julie Allison, Bureau Chief
2. Carol Gutchewsky, Social Work Administrator (SWA)
3. Mindy Norwood, Program Manager
4. Keith Wunder, Management Analyst III

**Service Contractors**

5. Chris Secrist, CEO of Mid Iowa Family Therapy Clinic
6. Jen Sievert, Executive Director of Forest Ridge Youth Services

**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. A face to face meeting was held on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> in which the workgroup began working on the identified benchmarks and is scheduled to submit the evidence of completion documents to SBT by May 30, 2012. As a result of this meeting, the subgroup working on Family Interaction determined it would be a good idea to develop a set of standards that mirror the FTDM standards. As with other products developed and/or revised from this workgroup, products will be distributed to a larger audience to solicit feedback prior to submitting for SBT approval.

*Training* – The last meeting was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> with the next one scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to ensure that the identified objectives are being met within the annual plan. A few of the key objectives include increasing joint attendance to the supervisory seminars/webinars and providing additional support/training to maximize dialog and shared learning; support rollout of the Blueprint; and all CFSR PIP related training activities as assigned.

The training subcommittee report was sent out electronically to members of this committee for review. The committee is providing open communication across various training committees to avoid duplication and helps spread the word of training opportunities. The joint training subcommittee was informed of the statewide online survey that will be sent out to measure the baseline level of partnership. The CWPC also asked the training sub-committee to discuss whether there is anything that can be done to lessen the volume of duplicative emails related to training. Those on the April call did not identify duplicative emails as a chronic statewide problem; it was noted that some of the duplication may occur via internal re-sharing. Consensus of committee was that it was “better to have more than less” and that no further action is recommended to CWPC. Based upon reports provided by attendees at the Supervisor Seminar (webinars), attendance at has declined slightly. Attendance is taken by participants responding to a question during the webinar regarding how many are present at each site and whether the attendees are participating on their own or with others. At the most recent webinar, 66% of the 66 participants reported that they were participating on their own. It was notes that while relationship building is occurring via the trainings, often the participants at a given site are different from month to month. Carol shared she would send a reminder to the SWAs regarding the importance of joint attendance at these webinars.

#### **Next steps:**

1. Work will continue on objectives and activities within the Strategic Plan.
2. The partnership survey will be sent to child welfare contractors and DHS SWAs.
  - a. Survey sent on 5.11.12 with requested completion date of 5.25.12.
    - i. Data will be compiled and analyzed, then shared.
3. The statewide all child welfare Contractor/DHS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 5.17.12.
  - a. The agenda was shared with attendees on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### **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.