

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 5, 2014

1:00 -3:30 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Vickie Frick, Julie Allison, Dawn Turner, Pat Penning, Barb Gay, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Tom Bouska, and Jennifer Sievert

Members by phone: Mike Mitchell

Members not in attendance: Jean Slaybaugh, Rick Venenga, Nola Aalberts, and Wendy Rickman

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 was to review and update the Strategic Plan, review and discuss updates to membership, provide general feedback and discussion regarding the statewide meeting held on May 16th, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There was discussion regarding the current ratio of Coalition (5) vs. Non-Coalition (2) memberships. In reviewing the child welfare contracts for Community Care, Safety Plan/FSRP Services, Recruitment and Retention (R&R), Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES), Group Foster Care, and Supervised Apartment Living (SAL) there are 29 individual organizations holding these contracts. Of these 29 organizations, 20 are current members of the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa for a total percentage of 69%. The total percentage for representation on this committee with the 5 to 2 ratio is 71%; therefore, the membership appears equitable at this time. The committee agreed that the ratio between Coalition and Non-Coalition representation will be reviewed on an annual basis in March to assure equity among membership.

Of the current membership terms, two terms expire in June with one held by Barb Gay and the other for DHS is vacant. Barb was approved by the Coalition Board of Directors for an additional term which is now extended June 30, 2017. The DHS position will remain vacant through June with a new term effective July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 to be filled by a Social Work Administrator. As current private co-chair, Barb has one more year of eligibility to serve if nominated. Mike Mitchell nominated Barb which was seconded by Jen Sievert and affirmed by the committee members. Barb will remain as the private co-chair for one more term through June 30, 2015.

The annual statewide meeting was held May 16, 2014. The topics for discussion included statewide accomplishments, a presentation on Integrated Health Homes, group discussions regarding leadership and staff retention, and discussion on the external partners' survey results. There was general discussion and feedback provided from members in attendance to the meeting which was positive. There was a lot of networking going on and people reported good information was shared and felt the meeting was worthwhile. During the large group presentations, people appeared engaged and asked good questions and during the small breakout sessions, a lot of good dialogue was overheard. The materials covered at the meeting will be shared as well as a link to a survey to solicit feedback on the usefulness of the different sessions facilitated during the meeting. The next steps in this process are to continue with the discussions that took place at the meeting and carry those messages to the local areas

and continue conversations at the state level by the Program Managers following up with the respective Contractors during the quarterly meetings.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is currently posted to the CWPC website. As activities/tasks are completed, the updated plan will be posted so those outside of the committee can track the progress on achievement of identified goals and objectives. In reviewing the plan to date, all tasks are on target for completion. The committee decided to modify the current plan specifically under Objective 4.2 by separating the two identified activities in 4.2.2. Under Objective 4.2, 4.2.2 now reads “assess contributing factors to unfavorable staff turnover” which reflects a completion date of 5.16.14 and 4.2.3 was added to include “explore ways to mitigate risk to system, if possible” with this being an ongoing discussion with no set completion date. The strategic plan is effective through December 2014 so there was some discussion regarding the development of a new strategic plan as this committee continues to move forward with its vision and goals.

There was a brief discussion on Iowa’s Differential Response (DR) system. The committee was informed that the system is performing as it was designed. The Department is still in the process of validating data and once this is completed, the data will be released. Iowa will be presenting at the National Differential Response Conference in November 2014.

There was a “Lean” event which took place in the Eastern Service Area specific to placement stability. “Lean” is a management philosophy and a process improvement approach which includes kaizen events that can dramatically improve the performance and effectiveness of agency processes in a relatively short timeframe.

The next round of Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for Iowa will occur in 2018.

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:

Child Welfare Services Contract Outcome Alignment – Mary Macumber Schmidt and Tom Bouska are the co-chairs of this workgroup. The goals of this workgroup are outlined in the CWPC Strategic Plan, specifically Objectives 4.1.2, 4.1.3, and 4.1.4. A meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2014 to finalize the identified patterns and compile the recommendations to be shared with the CWPC during the July meeting.

Training – Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner are the co-chairs of this committee. This group now meets on an every other month basis with report outs from the different training committees including: Children’s Juvenile Justice, DHS Training Committee, Child Welfare Provider Training Academy Committee, and IFAPA. The committee’s next meeting is scheduled in July. The goal is to increase attendance to the seminars and engage other Contractors to attend as the primary private attendees have been SP/FSRP representatives. This group is also in the process of completing the identified activities within the strategic plan specific to developing and implementing a partnership module for new worker training to be used by both DHS staff as well as Contractor staff.

Foster Group Care Rate Methodology – Julie Allison and Jen Sievert are the co-chairs of this workgroup. This workgroup met on March 7, 2014 with next steps identified to include updating instructions for the cost reporting manual and scheduling of training. There is a cost reporting training scheduled for June 10, 2014 which can be attended in person or by webinar. The Service Contract Specialists sent out notice of this training to the contractors who are required to complete cost reports.

A question and answer document will be completed for Foster Group Care and Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) by the end of this fiscal year.

Next steps:

1. The updated Strategic Plan with completion dates of achieved activities/tasks will be posted to the CWPC webpage.
2. Julie will follow up with Jean Slaybaugh regarding designee appointment and Dawn will explore membership of a DHS Social Work Administrator for the term of 7.1.14-6.30.17.
3. Mindy will send out an email to those who signed up to attend the meeting which will include the link to the proposed procurement timeline, the link to the CWPC webpage where the statewide accomplishments and external stakeholder survey results are posted, and the power point presentation on Integrated Health Homes. **Completed ~ 6.6.14.**
 - a. In addition, a separate email will be sent out to those who were in attendance to include the link to complete the survey for feedback on the meeting. **Completed ~ 6.10.14. Survey close date is 6.20.14.**
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for July 10, 2014 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.