

Child Welfare Partners Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, July 12th 2012

1-3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

Members in attendance: Wendy Rickman, Brian Fox, Mindy Norwood, Doug Johnson, and Pat Penning

Members by phone: Carol Gutchewsky, Jennifer Sievert, Barb Gay, Evan Klenk, and Mike Mitchell

Members not in attendance: Jean Slaybaugh, Julie Allison, Chris Secrist, and Nola Aalberts

Observers in attendance: None

Observers by phone: None

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:

Brian Fox officially took over as the private sector co-chair of the CWPC with his term expiring June 30, 2013. The committee members welcomed both Pat Penning and Mike Mitchell to their first official meeting beginning their three year term. In reviewing the membership terms, five (5) members are in the last year of their final term. Those members include: Brian Fox (Coalition member), Doug Johnson (Coalition member), Carol Gutchewsky (DHS), Evan Klenk (DHS), and Chris Secrist (Non-Coalition member).

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.

Goal 1: Improve public/private partnership at the local level

Objective 1.1: Identify and use existing structures in each service area to engage in regularly scheduled proactive partnership discussions.

1.1.3: Use baseline data to develop a core set of partnership questions for groups to consider facilitating local discussions. (Completed 7.12.12)

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.

A communication plan was discussed to include a summary of the survey, survey results, and core questions. It was determined that a cover email would be sent out by Wendy and Brian as the co-chairs of the CWPC. This information would be sent out ahead of time so that both DHS

and Contractor staff can review and absorb the information provided. It would be up to the local areas to ensure that these conversations occur.

Goal 2: Create a culture of quality that promotes the use of data and information

Objective 2.2: Promote DHS/Contractor/Court collaboration on use of data and information.

2.2.1: Collect baseline and annual data on existing partnership. (Completed 5.10.12)

2.2.2: Develop questions local groups can use to review and use data and information. (Completed 5.10.12)

2.2.3: Develop communication plan for distributing recommendations and questions. (Completed 5.10.12)

The document provided from Gary and Cheryl's workgroup was actually completed in April/May and was officially approved during this meeting. These three action steps have been determined as complete. The document provides potential questions for guiding the development and use of Results Oriented Management (ROM) as well as partnership questions to consider for facilitation of local discussions.

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 last face to face meeting was held on Monday, July 2nd in which members identified benchmarks for Q4 and began working on them. The Children's Bureau had a few clarifying questions regarding Q2 evidence of completion documents which were discussed with the group on July 2nd and responses formulated. The responses were provided to Kara Harvey, CFSR Coordinator to forward on to the Children's Bureau on July 10th. SBT had a couple of comments regarding the Q3 evidence of completion documents which were also discussed during the face to face meeting with responses formulated. These responses will be provided with the July monthly report to SBT. The Family Interaction group continues to work on developing standards that mirror the FTDM standards as well as identification of training needs. The FTDM group is currently reviewing curriculums and continuing discussions regarding content as we move forward with both the three (3) day curriculum as well as a proposed one (1) day refresher course. The FTDM group has a face to face meeting scheduled for Friday, July 20th and the Family Interaction group has a conference call scheduled for Friday, August 10th. The two groups will come back together for a conference call on Friday, August 24th to review work products prior to submitting them to SBT for Q4.

Training – The last meeting was held on June 15th with the next one scheduled for August 17th. The meeting scheduled for July 20th was canceled due to several scheduling conflicts. 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.

There was a lot of discussion during the June 15th conference call regarding the role of this joint training committee with PIP related activities. Initially this joint training committee was identified as responsible for several of the training activities throughout the PIP; however, it was later determined that SBT would identify the appropriate group to address the benchmarks based upon training needs. SBT would either assign it to an existing group/committee or identify the individuals necessary to pull a group together. During the June call, it was learned that there had been some training developed for one of the PIP workgroups as well as the creation of a master calendar. There was breakdown in communication as well as coordination of training at some point during this process. The joint training committee was identified as the group responsible to plan training activities with a specific “partnership” message. However, there was also some belief that the joint committee was to be aware of the alignment of training to have a better understanding of what is going on across all training.

There are three individuals that are members across all three training committees: Margie Poorman, Mindy Norwood with DHS and Sue Tew, Training Coordinator for the Child Welfare Provider Training Academy. It was determined that these three individuals meet with both Chris and Carol as the co-chairs to identify strategies to open lines of communication.

The training subcommittee report was sent out electronically to members of this committee for review.

Next steps:

1. Work will continue on objectives and activities within the Strategic Plan.
2. The cover letter to accompany the survey results will be developed and sent out by Wendy and Brian as c-chairs on behalf of the CWPC.
3. Mindy, Margie, and Sue will schedule a time to meet with both Carol and Chris as the co-chairs of the joint training committee.
4. Mindy and Wendy will explore requesting additional technical assistance through the National Resource Center for Organizations Improvement (NRCOI) to continue through the strategic planning process.
5. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for August 9th, 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.