

## Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

### Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

**Members in attendance:** Mindy Norwood, Wendy Rickman, Janee Harvey, Mike Mitchell, Kaci O'Day Goldstein, and Dawn Turner

**Members by phone:** Leta Hosier, Rick Venenga, Tom Bouska, Debbie Orduna, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Mike Arndt

**Members not in attendance:** Jon Wetlaufer, Andrew Allen, Mike McInroy, and Jean Slaybaugh

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

**Observers by phone:** Martha Munro, Training Coordinator, Child Welfare Provider Training Academy (CWPTA)/Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

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

The purpose of the meeting this month was to discuss membership terms, review the three-year strategic plan, and provide general updates.

#### **Summary of Meeting:**

The committee welcomed back Mike Arndt as the newest Coalition member, replacing Cheryl Plank who resigned her membership as she moved on to new endeavors. Mike previously served as a Non-Coalition member. In August of 2015, Youth Homes of Mid-America joined the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa so he could no longer serve in the capacity of a Non-Coalition member. Mike is the Executive Director at Youth Homes and participated in the strategic planning session that resulted in the current three-year plan.

The following membership terms end June 30, 2016 ~ all are eligible for a second term:

- Tom Bouska (DHS)
- Dawn Turner (DHS)
- Andrew Allen (Non-Coalition)
- Mary Macumber Schmidt (Coalition)
- Rick Venenga (Coalition)

Per the CWPC membership guidelines, the DHS Division Administrator/Co-Chair approves DHS membership; the Coalition Board approves the Coalition membership; and Non-Coalition membership is approved by the CWPC members. During this meeting, the members unanimously approved a second membership term for Andrew Allen pending his willingness to serve. The next Coalition Board meeting is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> and they will approve/deny Mary and Rick's memberships for a second term.

The current strategic plan was reviewed but there is still work to be done on identifying leads, others to be involved, and timelines for some of the focus areas and tasks which will be updated as those areas are identified. As with all prior strategic plans, the current strategic plan will be posted to the CWPC webpage and updated accordingly.

The planning committee for the annual statewide child welfare services meeting met to begin preliminary discussions on identifying proposed dates, times, locations, attendees, topics, etc. Once a date is confirmed, a “save the date” email will go out to child welfare contractors. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for April 20, 2016.

There was a report out on the local service area meetings that occur around the state. All shared that meetings occur with some occurring monthly and others quarterly or when the need arises. The local service area meetings continue to expand with invitations to accommodate more disciplines to be at the table for discussion. It was reported that since the onset of these local area meetings, the conversations have moved away from the primary focus on technical changes/issues and is now focused more on service delivery. The Western Service Area has a meeting scheduling for March 14<sup>th</sup> in Carroll County. In the past, they’ve invited Magellan to the table and now they plan to reach out to the MCOs and invite them to the local area meetings. The Cedar Rapids Service Area LEAN event is still active with identified projects, etc.

There was a legislative update to include some key topics which include proposed legislation to expand the current definition of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) as well as Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. The Iowa legislative language for Sex Trafficking was pulled directly from the federal legislation that was signed into law in September 2014. DHS does not anticipate any problems with this legislation. There continues to be conversations regarding the DEC Legislation on the House side and there is a proposed amendment to include development of a workgroup to report out at the next session (similar to the workgroup created out of Differential Response). This week is the second funnel which means that March 11<sup>th</sup> is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate Committees.

The Differential Response (DR) System Overview for Calendar Year 2015 was released to the public on Monday, 2.15.16. A copy of this report was provided to the CWPC members and all information on DR can be accessed at the following: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/differential-response>. There was discussion regarding content of the current report and asked if there were any questions. DHS is open to comments on the report and if anyone has suggestions on what they would like to see included in the next report, be sure to share those suggestions.

An update was provided regarding the SafeCare conversation that occurred on March 4, 2016 with SP/FSRP Services and Community Care contractor representatives. This was a collaborative discussion on gathering statewide thoughts on evidence-based practices and considering completion of an application to bring SafeCare to Iowa.

**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:

*Training – Co-chairs are Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner.* Mike shared that this workgroup did not meet in February and the meeting in March was canceled due to scheduling conflicts so there is nothing new to update at this time on workgroup activities. The plan is to include follow up on the Six Principles of Partnership during the next annual statewide meeting.

*Child Welfare Services Workforce – Co-chairs are Mike McInroy and Debbie Orduna.* Debbie replaced Cheryl as the co-chair on this workgroup. The first meeting of this workgroup is scheduled for March 11, 2016. There has been some preliminary work completed on pulling staff qualifications for the following service contracts: Safety Plan/FSRP Services, Community Care, Foster Group Care, CWES, R&R, SAL, Aftercare, Drug Testing Collections, Parent Partners, and Family Team/Youth Transition Decision-Making (FTDM/YTDM) Meeting Facilitators. The requirements for the DHS Social Worker Series as established

by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) were also provided. The plan is to put all of the staff qualifications by contract into a spreadsheet to begin reviewing for similarities and differences. It was determined that the conversation held with SP/FSRP Services and Community Care contractor representatives regarding paid interns should also be included in the discussion for this workgroup.

The two co-chairs will set meetings and agendas as they begin working on identifying additional members and timelines for completion of identified outcomes for inclusion within the strategic plan.

*Communication – Co-chairs are Janee Harvey and Rick Venenga.* The first meeting of this workgroup was held on March 9, 2016. A brief update was provided on key points that the workgroup will initially focus on including identifying: target audience to receive the communication/information, what meetings currently take place, who is invited to attend these meetings, frequency of meetings, common themes/agendas, key messages, etc.

The two co-chairs will set meetings and agendas as they begin working on identifying additional members and timelines for completion of identified outcomes for inclusion within the strategic plan.

**Next steps:**

1. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for April 14, 2016.
2. Mindy will follow up with Andrew Allen to confirm his willingness to accept a second term.
  - a. [Email sent on 3.28.16. Andrew responded that he would like to serve a second term. The new end date of his membership term is now June 30, 2019.](#)
3. Mindy will follow up with Wendy and Vern regarding Tom and Dawn's membership terms.
  - a. [Email sent on 3.28.16](#)
4. Mindy will follow up with Kristie Oliver after April 4<sup>th</sup> regarding Rick and Mary's membership terms.
5. The planning committee will continue to meet to organize the 2016 annual statewide meeting and make recommendations to the CWPC members.

**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.