

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, October 30, 2014

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 SW

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Barb Gay, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Jon Wetlaufer, Wendy Rickman, Dawn Turner, Holly Karr White, and Mike Arndt

Members by phone: Mike Mitchell, Jennifer Sievert, Pat Penning, and Rick Venenga

Members not in attendance: Nola Aalberts, Tom Bouska, and Julie Allison

Observers in attendance: No observers in attendance this date

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to welcome new members to the committee, review and update the Strategic Plan, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There was an orientation for the three newest members of this committee prior to this scheduled meeting.

The committee members welcomed Mike Arndt with Youth Homes of Mid-America to his first official meeting. Mike shared that he has over 34 years in the field and his organization currently provides numerous services, but those specific to current child welfare service contracts include supervised apartment living, cluster site apartment living, and group care.

Barb Gay shared that she is leaving Foundation 2 in December and starting a new position with Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC). Since ASAC does not currently have child welfare service contracts, her membership term ends next month. The committee needs a new Coalition representative identified to replace her on the committee. This new member will finish out the current term which ends June 30, 2017. The committee also needs to nominate and select a new private co-chair to finish out the remaining one year term through June 30, 2015.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is currently posted to the CWPC website. As activities/tasks are completed, the updated plan is 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 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. The committee agreed that Objective 1.2, specifically activity 1.2.1, should be divided into two separate activities. The training committee developed a partnership module for use by DHS and Contractors to use in new worker training. The decision is to implement the designed partnership module into new worker training in 2015 and will be part of the new strategic plan with a target date of May 31, 2015. This is now listed under 1.2.2 and will focus around the Six Principles of Partnership. The next strategic plan will also incorporate the follow-up partnership survey from March 2012 (1.1.6) and will include analysis of information collected. There was discussion regarding Objective 2.2 and activities listed under 2.2.1 – 2.2.3 to either be completed by the end of December or carry over into the next strategic plan. This will be further discussed during the next meeting.

There was a brief update on Differential Response (DR). The 2nd quarter data is now posted to the

website and a link was provided to the committee members to access the information. Wendy reported that there has been a reduction in the number of removals as well as in the number of CINA petitions filed. There is a webinar scheduled for December with representatives from Drug Endangered Children (DEC), county attorneys, judges, etc. There are currently no plans for the next legislative session to include any other categories other than Denial of Critical Care (DCC) for assignment under family assessments.

Mary Macumber Schmidt reported out on what she took away from her attendance to the Integrated Health Homes (IHH) Learning Collaborative. Rick Venenga identified three components that impact children and families and seem to be making a difference:

- The peer support person is very valuable and is able to connect families;
- The nurse is a critical component as well specific to medications; and
- Networking to other referral services.

There was a brief discussion on the Parent Partner contract as a committee member asked how the statewide contract was going. Wendy reported a relatively smooth transition and that CFI is doing a good job with the contract to date. Parent Partners are stretched on capacity but relationships are improving and there is an increase in engaging fathers.

There was a follow up question from Mary as the co-chair of the Contract Alignment workgroup specific to the next steps as it relates to the upcoming procurements and recommendations from the workgroup. Wendy reported that she reviewed all of the recommendations and will take them into consideration as we move forward.

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 – There was no update provided during this meeting. The next conference call for this subcommittee is scheduled for 11.4.14. The committee co-chairs, Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner, will report out at the December meeting.

Next steps:

1. The updated Strategic Plan with completion dates of achieved activities/tasks will continue to be posted to the CWPC webpage.
2. Any nominations or volunteers for the private co-chair position should be sent to Mindy to compile for the December meeting.
 - a. The committee will select a new private co-chair for January to June 30, 2015.
3. Julie will follow up to secure a facilitator for additional technical assistance regarding future strategic plans.
4. As of this date, the planning committee for the 2015 annual statewide meeting includes Julie Allison, Holly Karr-White, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Mike Mitchell.
5. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for December 11, 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.