

## Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

### Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 13, 2014

1:00 -3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2

**Members in attendance:** Mindy Norwood, Tom Bouska, Vickie Frick, Julie Allison, Dawn Turner, Pat Penning, Barb Gay, Rick Venenga, and Wendy Rickman

**Members by phone:** Mike Mitchell, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Nola Aalberts, and Jennifer Sievert

**Members not in attendance:** Jean Slaybaugh,

**Observers in attendance:** No observers in attendance or by phone this date

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

The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the Strategic Plan, finalize the external stakeholder survey, and provide general updates.

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

Wendy Rickman shared that due to an increased need of her time managing the ELIAS Project (Affordable Care Act), she will be working primarily at the ELIAS Building for the next several months, effective 2.10.14. Wendy has a firm commitment to this committee, but with the changes to the focus of her work as well as a change in the location where she is housed, she will not be able to regularly attend the CWPC meetings. She identified Julie Allison as her designee to step in as co-chair with Barb Gay in the interim as there is a need for a functional role as the public co-chair.

A copy of the current membership guidelines was sent out to this committee for further review and discussion at the March meeting to determine whether or not there is a need to revise the current membership document.

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 next two sets of action steps to be completed are due March 2014 and May 2014. The primary focus of the steps for March 2014 is in collecting baseline data to assess current external partners' awareness of the functioning of public and private efforts to achieve outcomes. This is specific to Objective 1.1.5. The committee finalized the questions that will be included within the survey. Once the questions are put into survey monkey and the introductory email is drafted, the link will be sent out to the identified audience members with a two week turn around for responses.

The primary focus of the steps for May 2014 is to administer a follow up partnership survey to those surveyed in March 2012 and compare the current data to the baseline data from 2012. This is specific to Objective 1.1.6. The Child Welfare Contract Outcome Alignment group has a step identified in Objective 4.1.2 to analyze aggregate and case level incentives due in May 2014 as well.

There was a brief update provided on Differential Response (DR) which was implemented 1.1.14. There were changes to the population served in both the Community Care contract as well as the Safety Plan/FSRP Services contract. The Department will be looking at referral trends as data is collected.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming statewide meeting which will be held on May 16, 2014. Each of the Child Welfare Program Managers facilitated conversations with their respective Contractors during the last scheduled quarterly meeting to solicit topics for discussion at this meeting. These topics were compiled and provided to the members of this committee to review. The small group of Tom Bouska, Pat Penning, Barb Gay, and Rick Venenga will utilize the identified topics for discussion as they continue to plan the agenda for the annual statewide meeting.

There was additional discussion regarding staff turnover based upon information collected from Program Managers through the quarterly meetings with their respective Contractors. This information was compiled and shared with this committee for further discussion. There were a few common themes identified as well as some program areas that do not seem to have any issue with staff turnover. The committee is considering this as a topic for the development of another workgroup to address across all contracts.

**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 with other members including Mindy Norwood, Christine Secrist, and Doug Johnson. The co-chairs and members of this workgroup will reach out to others as necessary to meet the needs of identified goals (i.e. DHS Program Managers, DHS Contract Specialists, Contractor representatives for specific programs/contracts areas, etc.). The purpose of this workgroup is to ensure that performance measures are aligned across contracts, contribute to positive outcomes, and appropriately balance accountability and risk. The goals of this workgroup are outlined in the CWPC Strategic Plan, specifically Objectives 4.1.2, 4.1.3, and 4.1.4. In reviewing the charter, the current workgroup members agreed to initially focus on the following child welfare service contracts: Safety Plan Services, FSRP Services, Community Care, Foster Group Care, CWES, and R&R.

This group is in the process of reviewing current performance measures and outcomes identified in each of the respective contracts as well as current payment structures. To date, the group reviewed Safety Plan and FSRP Services as well as Community Care. Prior to this meeting today, there was a discussion and review of the R&R contract as well as Group Care. This conversation included the assigned Program Managers for these contracts as well as representation from Four Oaks regarding the R&R contract. CWES will be reviewed during the March meeting and include the assigned Program Manager as well as representation from a couple CWES contracts. Upon review of the above identified child welfare service contracts, any patterns that may affect other child welfare service contracts will also be addressed through this group with recommendations made to the CWPC. This group is making steady process on the identified tasks at hand with the next meeting scheduled for March 13. The plan is to meet for an extended period of time on April 10, 2014 to compile the recommendations to be shared with the CWPC.

*Training* – Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner are the co-chairs of this committee. This group meets on a monthly 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. Mike participated in some quarterly contractor calls to discuss general training needs as well as plug attendance to upcoming supervisory seminars. 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. Mike shared that he has been invited back to some of these quarterly meetings to obtain feedback from Contractors to bring back to the Joint Training Committee.

*Foster Group Care Rate Methodology* – Julie Allison and Jen Sievert are the co-chairs of this workgroup. A charter was developed, approved, and shared with the CWPC members. The purpose of this workgroup is to revisit and discuss negotiable/non-negotiable activities as well as timelines that were outlined in the Foster Group Care Rate Methodology Workgroup Final Report and Recommendations submitted in December 2012. Invitations to participate in this workgroup will be sent out in the next week or so with the first meeting soon to be scheduled.

**Next steps:**

1. The updated Strategic Plan with completion dates of achieved activities/tasks will be posted to the CWPC webpage.
2. Mindy will work with the Quality Improvement Bureau to get the survey incorporated into survey monkey and work through any identified issues. Once ready to go, the survey link will be sent out to those identified in the survey.
  - a. Email to go out on behalf of the CWPC sometime early March.
3. The date of the statewide meeting is May 16, 2014. Invitations have not been sent as of this meeting date, but once the audience is identified, a “save the date” email will go out statewide with the details on the date, time, and location of the meeting.
  - a. Agenda items and any other materials will be shared with identified attendees as it gets closer to the meeting date.
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 13, 2014 from 1-3:00 p.m.
  - a. Agenda to include discussion on membership guidelines and terms, specific to the Division Administrator membership and co-chair terms; including a review of DHS membership as representation is not currently equal. There are to be 7 members on each side, with 7 active reps for the private side but only 4 active reps for the public side to date.
  - b. The Contract Outcome Alignment Group meets this same date from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.
  - c. Those taking the lead on the upcoming statewide meeting meet this same date from 3-4:00 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.