

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 14, 2014

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Vickie Frick, Pat Penning, Barb Gay, Mary Macumber Schmidt, Tom Bouska, Rick Venenga, and Jon Wetlaufer

Members by phone: Mike Mitchell, Julie Allison, Dawn Turner, Holly Karr White, and Jennifer Sievert

Members not in attendance: 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, review recommendations from the Child Welfare Contract Alignment workgroup, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

The committee members welcomed both Holly Karr White, DHS Social Work Administrator for the Cedar Rapids Service Area and Jon Wetlaufer, DHS Bureau Chief for Service Contracts & Support to their first official meeting beginning their three year term.

CFI is now a member of the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa so Vickie Frick is stepping down as one of the two Non-Coalition members. This term is effective through June 30, 2016. As the Child Welfare Division Administrator, Wendy Rickman will send out notification of the membership opening and application process to Non-Coalition organizations that have child welfare contracts. All applications received will be reviewed by the current CWPC members for selection to fill the current opening for the partial term through June 30, 2016.

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. An email was sent out to all of those in attendance to this meeting which included a link to complete a survey. The goal of the survey was to receive feedback regarding the sessions facilitated throughout the day and their usefulness to each of the individuals to the work they do in child welfare as well as suggestions for the next annual meeting. We received responses from 49 individuals which is less than 50% of those who were in attendance to this meeting. The committee members reviewed the comments and identified patterns/themes to consider for the next planning committee. The following patterns/themes were identified to be shared with members of the next planning committee to consider:

- Statewide Accomplishments
- What's new?
 - Legislative Updates
 - Contractor Updates
 - DHS Updates
 - Data
 - How do we work together through cross collaboration?

- Common Issues/Barriers and Strategies
 - What are some common issues experienced by contractors across the child welfare service array? What are some successful strategies to address the barriers?
- Survey Results
 - Share results from partnership surveys implemented on behalf of the CWPC

As of this meeting, the following members agreed to be part of the planning committee for the 2015 annual statewide meeting: Julie Allison and Holly Karr-White for DHS and Mary Macumber Schmidt and Mike Mitchell for the Contractors.

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 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.

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. This workgroup focused on reviewing the following Child Welfare contracts:

- Foster Group Care
- Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency (FSRP) Services
 - Safety Plan Services were not reviewed
- Recruitment and Retention (R&R) of Resource Families
- Community Care
- Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES)

This group submitted recommendations to the CWPC members to determine which recommendations, if any, would be presented to the Department for consideration for upcoming procurements. Due to timing of some of the procurements, the committee members requested that today's meeting focus review and discussion regarding FSRP Services and Community Care. The other contracts will be discussed during future meetings. The co-chairs reviewed the recommendations and considerations specific to FSRP Services and Community Care and provided clarification to all questions from committee members. The co-chairs agreed to amendments to language on a couple of recommendations. Upon the amended language, the CWPC members unanimously approved the workgroup's report and recommendations to move forward to Wendy Rickman (Contract Owner) for review and consideration.

Training – There was no update provided during this meeting. The committee co-chairs, Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner, will report out at the September 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. An email will be sent on behalf of Wendy Rickman as the Division Administrator to all Non-Coalition members inviting them to submit applications to join the CWPC.
 - a. Once applications are received, they will be submitted to the committee members for review and a selection will be made to fill the opening for the partial term effective September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.
3. Julie will follow up to secure a facilitator for additional technical assistance regarding future strategic plans as the action steps within the current strategic plan will be completed by December 31, 2014.
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for September 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.