

Child Welfare Partners Committee

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 16th 2011

2- 4:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE Side 1

Members in attendance: Doug Johnson, Wendy Rickman, Mindy Norwood, and Julie Allison

Members by phone: Carol Gutchewsky, Anne Gruenewald, Evan Klenk, Marc Baty, Chris Secrist, Brian Fox, and Janice Lane

Members not in attendance: Jan Clausen, Cheryl Goodwin, Nola Aalberts, and Gary Lippe

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

Observers by phone: Gary Gansemer, Executive Direction of Hillcrest Family Services

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to provide tentative details regarding the March 2011 meeting with Child Welfare Service Contractors as well as to provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

There will be a meeting on March 16th, 2011 from 10-4:00 p.m. for Technical Assistance (TA) to include providers of core services: Safety Plan/FSRP Services, Group Care, Supervised Apartment Living (SAL), Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES), and Recruitment & Retention (R&R). The focus of the meeting is building data based decision making and performance based contracting into the organizations and what it means for organizational capability, workforce development, and organizational change management. The meeting is titled “Navigating the Performance Based Contracting Environment” and the outcomes are as follows:

1. Participants will have a shared understanding of Iowa’s desired results from a performance based contracting system (PBC).
2. Participants will identify organizational strengths, challenges, and strategies to managing in a performance based contacting environment.
3. Participants will have a framework for building a culture of data-driven decision making within their organizations.
4. Participants will have a framework to assist them in building organizational capability and in managing needed organizational changes.

The committee identified a new topic for the blog on the “Journey of Partnership.” The June Summit identified the need to carry on the conversations regarding partnership from the statewide level to the local level. Each Service Area was encouraged to facilitate “mini summits” at the local level. The next topic will be a discussion around the mini summits held in the Western Service Area.

There was discussion around identifying ways to communicate and promote the blog on the Journey of Partnership. Some of the ideas included: sending the link with internal newsletters or other correspondence, placing on individual websites, sending out an email to all when updates are made to the website, add a discussion during the monthly supervisory seminars, and providing updates at Bureau meetings within Central Office, etc.

Anne Gruenewald and Marc Baty's membership terms end June 30, 2011. Wendy Rickman will appoint a new representative to replace Marc and the Coalition Board will appoint a new representative to replace Anne for the July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014 term. These new appointments will be identified no later than May 1st, 2011. A discussion regarding the transition process will occur over the next several meetings.

There continues to be work completed on the CFSR PIP. A smaller group will convene next week for two to three days to further refine the PIP. Once this is completed, a copy of the PIP will be provided to this committee for review.

An update was provided regarding the University of Kansas initiative regarding the SACWIS system to track data more effectively. Casey will finance (\$90,000) and do the contract oversight for the State of Iowa. The contract is being finalized and the anticipated date for going live with this is January 2012. It is uncertain at this date how much mapping is required on this end. There is a meeting scheduled for February 24-25, 2011 with a demonstration taking place on the 24th.

Work Group Updates: (The following updates were provided by each of the co-chairs in attendance)

Performance Based Contracting – Refer to Summary of Meeting section above.

Family Interaction – The regular scheduled monthly calls continue with both Family Interaction Practice Champions and the Family Team Meeting Facilitators. It has only been a couple of months since the two philosophies have combined into one monthly call, so we are still working at making sure all who need to be in attendance are being invited to the calls. It was identified that any action steps that are identified out of the CFSR PIP workgroup discussions will be assigned to this group.

Training – A meeting was held with the members of this subcommittee on 2.15.11. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the interface of training structures, assessment of training needs, and identification on how to collectively move forward. It was determined that for all of the training groups, the CFSR PIP should be the foundation for the work.

Public/Private Partnership Strategic Planning Session – Iowa's application was submitted on 1.12.11. Iowa was not one of the five states selected to participate in this session. However, the Quality Improvement Center on the Privatization of Child Welfare Services (QIC PCW) determined that since there were a number of states that would benefit from this type of Technical Assistance (TA), the QIC PCW will be looking into the possibility of providing on site TA prior to October 2011.

Next steps:

1. The “Journey of Partnership” will be an ongoing agenda item for this committee. The point of contact will be the CWPC and anyone who wishes to contribute to the journey by adding comments or sharing a story, should submit their request to Mindy. The requests will then be provided to the CWPC for a decision. Amy Juhnke has agreed to continue in her role in this process.
2. As the details are finalized with the March meeting of “Navigating the Performance Based Contracting Environment,” an electronic invitation will be sent out to the core child welfare service providers.
 - a. Any targeted pre reading will be sent out ahead of time.
3. Brian Fox and Carol Gutchewsky will identify staff from the Western Service Area and provide those names to Mindy for the Journey of Partnership.
 - a. Mindy will contact Amy Juhnke with LSI to begin the conversations for interviewing and posting the conversations.
4. Mindy will explore the possibility of receiving notifications from the website upon any updates or new postings to the site.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22nd from 2-4:00 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.