

## **Child Welfare Partners Committee**

### **Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2011

10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County DHS

River Place

Des Moines Conference Room

**Members in attendance:** Doug Johnson, Wendy Rickman, Mindy Norwood, Jennifer Sievert, Barb Gay, Julie Allison, Brian Fox, Gary Lippe, Cheryl Goodwin, Nola Aalberts, and Evan Klenk

**Members not in attendance:** Carol Gutchewsky, Chris Secrist, and Jean Slaybaugh

**Observers in attendance:** Deb Thompson, Legislative Agency Representative

**Observers by phone:** No observers by phone.

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

The purpose of the meeting was to welcome new members to the committee, provide general updates, confirm nomination of the private sector co-chair, and plan for the technical assistance meeting scheduled in November.

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

The CWPC members welcomed Jennifer Sievert, Executive Director of Youth and Family Resource Services as the newest Coalition member for the term through June 30, 2012.

Doug Johnson was elected for one additional year as the private sector co-chair. Doug's full term expires June 30, 2013 but his role as co-chair will end June 30, 2012.

The CWPC membership guidelines were reviewed and it was determined that the guidelines would be revised and then reviewed by this committee for approval. There was discussion around the possibility of expanding membership to the committee or explore additional ways to get others involved in the activities defined by this partnership. There is the possibility of involvement through participation in workgroups chartered out of this committee. The CWPC members will continue to explore options as we continue to grow and evolve as a committee.

The CFSR PIP was approved with an effective start date of October 1, 2011. This begins the two year time frame to complete the activities outlined in the PIP. There was discussion around the role of this committee as it relates to the PIP and products developed out of respective assigned workgroups. It was determined that this committee would be provided products for review. The DHS Service Business Team (SBT) has been assigned the responsibility for approval on all PIP activities. Prior to any products being submitted to SBT, there will be a review process to provide comments/feedback from the CWPC, SAMs, and others as directed.

There was discussion around how to take initiatives statewide, for example: Parent Partners. Parent Partners started out as small sites and there is discussion around exploring the possibility of expanding Parent Partners statewide. The issue on how to finance Parent Partners is being explored. There was language included in the Safety Plan/Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency (FSRP) Services RFP that identified Contractors would contribute by collaborating with Parent Partners to begin conversations on how to expand this collaboration statewide, and are encouraged to engage in community planning efforts to support the Parent Partner approach. The vision is to see Parent Partners as a core service, but there needs to be continued discussions and support on what it means to get there.

There was also discussion around financing Family Team Meetings. How are FTMs financed today? What support is needed? Are the facilitators through an agency or DHS? Are they paid or volunteers? These are all areas that will need to be addressed further.

The interviews between Connie Jones (DHS) and Jamie Borsh (Father Flanagan's Boystown) were reviewed and approved by this committee for posting to the Journey of Partnership.

There was discussion around the contracted child welfare services meetings that are scheduled quarterly with the Program Managers and annually with all Contractors. The purpose of the quarterly meetings is to standardize processes within the Division of Adult, Children, and Family Services (ACFS) to ensure that from a policy perspective that both the public and private organizations are moving along in the evolution of our child welfare contracting process. The information obtained through these meetings will help inform the annual all child welfare contractor meetings as we all work together to improve our child welfare system outcomes. The conversations occurred during the RFP process as well as contract negotiations. The Program Managers (located in Central Office) have been charged with determining whether or not we have healthy contracts and if so, how do we know? DHS Program Managers were asked to develop an agenda that is similar across all contracts in order to compare information across the service array to develop an overall Child Welfare Report Card. A communication/feedback loop will be identified to build in information obtained from service areas, Contractors, and other stakeholders to help guide the conversations for each of the respective Contractor quarterly meetings. A survey is currently being developed that will be shared with our Court partners, initially judges and attorneys. Program Managers were instructed to develop three questions specific to their respective program area that will be included in the survey. The survey will eventually be shared with other stakeholders to solicit feedback on service array. After completion of the quarterly meetings, Program Managers will be drafting notes from discussion that occurred that will feed into the Report Card, specifically around what is working well and what needs to be improved.

There was also discussion around other meetings held across the state along with the statewide Community Partnership for Protection of Children (CPPC) meeting scheduled in November and how these meetings can be coordinated to become more involved in identified strategies. The CWPC could commit if we are aware something is scheduled, like a meeting or a conference. A representative or two from this committee could attend and observe and then report back the information learned.

Wendy provided an update on the legislative groups, specifically around the Child Abuse Registry and House File 608 County Attorney legislation.

**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:

*Performance Based Contracting (PBC)* – Evan provided the committee with an understanding of the original intent behind the workgroup. The workgroup explored connections with the National Resource Centers (NRC) and other states to see where Iowa could move forward with PBC. The common concept through the connections was the importance of communication. In April 2010, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) provided two days of technical assistance to this committee. This workgroup was also charged with developing a consistent amendment process to the all child welfare contracts and reviewed suggestions for specific amendments to the Safety Plan/FSRP contracts.

There will be continued discussion around the direction that this workgroup will take as we move forward with technical assistance around PBC. This may require the development of a new charter to realign the purpose of this workgroup, including assignment of a private sector co-chair with Evan, as well as additional membership.

Jennifer Sharma (CWLA) facilitated a meeting/training regarding PBC from the provider/contractor perspective with Contractors in March 2011. There will be corresponding follow up with DHS staff, specifically with Service Area Managers (SAMs), Social Work Administrators (SWAs), and Central Office Program Managers. Jennifer will be in Iowa at the end of October to firm up the agenda and the meeting/training will occur sometime late fall 2011.

Peter Watson and Crystal Collins-Comargo will be in Iowa on November 9-10<sup>th</sup> as facilitators of the Iowa Public/Private Partnership Strategic Planning Session. A draft agenda was provided to the committee for review and additional feedback. In reviewing the agenda, the committee believed that it met the goals identified in the Iowa's application for onsite technical assistance. The two primary goals for this session are (1) how to use and interpret data and identify impact; and (2) drive practice to the front line level.

*Family Interaction/Family Team Meeting* – The structure of this subcommittee remains as a workgroup under the CWPC: however, there is a smaller group of members that are working specifically on the CFSR PIP action steps. The timelines of the CFSR PIP outline action steps for Family Team Decision Making to be completed first, followed by Family Interaction steps, followed by Training. Although the PIP flows in this manner, all will be discussed individually as well as mutually. The primary focus to date has been around Family Team Decision Making (FTDM). There is representation across the state on this smaller committee, including two Parent Partner representatives. A subgroup is scheduled to meet on October 6, 2011 to rewrite/revise the current FTDM standards based on feedback received out of the face to face meeting in August.

*Training* – The most recent meeting was held on September 26<sup>th</sup> with the next one scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>. This group updated its charter, membership list, and purpose statement, and will continue examining each of the group's objectives to ensure they are being addressed. As of September call, it was determined that the group is on track although will want to consider the responsibility to assess training needs during the next scheduled call.

The updated charter was presented to this committee for review to ensure that the group has stayed on track with the original intent. The major changes include updating and expansion of membership as well as the realignment of activities to match with current practice initiatives. The charter was **approved** by the committee this date.

Committee members were advised that their role is to initiate and maintain communication with their colleagues so that persons/agencies not on the committee have the opportunity to receive information and provide input. A communications plan was developed to ensure a coherent plan for sharing of information from the CWPC Joint Training Committee across agencies and contracts. A copy of this communication plan was provided to this committee as was a copy of the updated membership list.

This group will move forward with the PIP related training tasks now that the PIP is approved.

### **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. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for November 9-10<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Peter Watson and Crystal Collins-Comargo will be here to facilitate technical assistance/strategic planning.
    - i. Mindy will notify Peter and Crystal of the approved agenda and will follow up on the final report to be provided to this committee for review.
3. Wendy and Doug will look at identifying a consistent day/time for these meetings to occur beginning with December 2011 through the next year.
4. Wendy, Gary, and Evan will review the DHS membership guidelines and make recommendations to the committee at the next meeting.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be a face to face meeting in Des Moines.

### **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.