

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee**  
**May 14, 2009**

**Call to Order**

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order at 10:10 am

**Committee Members Present**

Jerry Foxhoven  
George Estle  
George Belitsos  
Miriam Landsman  
Jean McAleer  
Nancy Magnall  
Richard Moore  
Randall Peters by phone  
Ronald Stehl  
David Van Ningen  
Rep. Renee Schulte  
Mary Nelson  
Charles Krogmeier  
Rep. Charles Isenhardt by phone

**Committee Members Not Present**

Matthew McDowell  
Tiffany Wilson  
Sen. James Seymour  
Sen. Amanda Ragan  
Cynthia Cox  
Kathleen Kilonski  
Kathleen Penkert

**Guests**

Kristie Oliver  
Molly Kottmeyer  
Debra Helson  
Tom Lazio  
Mary Culver

**Approval of Minutes**

Dick Moore moved to approve the minutes, Nancy Magnall seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Introduction**

Introduction of Charles Krogmeier, the new Director of the Department of Human Services. Director Krogmeier spoke a little about his background. The Director also talked about the challenges ahead for himself and the department. He plans on spending

the months between Memorial Day and Labor Day visiting DHS local offices and state institutions. While out in the field, he will also schedule meetings with representatives of various provider groups.

He was asked what his # 1 priority would be, or his biggest challenge. He said he felt that the biggest challenge would be the budget, given the state's revenue situation and the demands on DHS' services.

### **Permanency Sub-Committee Report**

George Belitsos presented a brief overview of the Permanency Sub-Committee meeting on April 22, 2009. He handed out the minutes, a membership list and the Permanency sub-committee recommendations on Iowa youth Permanency (these are available on the CWAC webpage).

George moved for CWAC to support the recommendations- by the subcommittee on permanency: This motion covers the Permanency Vision Statement for Iowa it is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pages of the hand-out entitled Permanency Sub-Committee Recommendations on Iowa Youth Permanency (Draft) (attached).

Dick Moore seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **DHS Update (Administrator's Report)**

Mary Nelson provided an update from DHS. The written report is available on the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) webpage. Nelson provided a brief overview of several of the topics. One of the topics that Mary talked about is the Fostering Connection for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. (FCSIAA). In this section is a definition of what a relative is. Mary said this definition of a relative needs to be approved by the federal Children's Bureau in order for the state of Iowa to use it. George B moved that the CWAC endorse the definition of what a relative is, so it would possibly help to get the definition approved. Dick M. seconded the motion, it was voted on and it was unanimously approved.

Mary also talked about Iowa's Title IV-B child welfare 5-year plan. She asked that CWAC members read the hand out for this (on the CWAC web site) and give any input they may have on the plan.

### **Family Interaction Presentation**

Wendy Rickman and Lori Mozena gave a presentation on Family Interaction Plan. DHS providers and the Court began rolling out the plan beginning in March of this year. (There are several handouts on the CWAC web page). Lori gave a little history as to what the committee has been doing. Wendy talked about strategies and the Readiness Survey the committee had used. The Survey went out to at least 2000 people and they have received back approximately 1327 responses. Feedback was very positive on the survey. They are holding training sessions over the months of April through June. Rep Schulte would like to have Legislators invited to the trainings. There was discussion

about the cost analysis impact of this program. Dick Moore moved that the CWAC endorse both the theory and the family interaction plan and that DHS and providers assess the effect on the worker, child, foster parent and the parents. Miriam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed with Estel voting no.

### **Report on Future CWAC Agenda Items**

David Van Ningen reported on the work he and Mary had done to develop potential future meeting agenda items. There is a hand out (on the CWAC web site) that identifies “Macro/Systemic/Policy Discussion Topics” and “Micro/Specific/Program Discussion Topics” based on input from CWAC members. In his report, David recommended that CWAC select one topic from each list for every meeting. The group discussed the list, the consensus was to revisit this list at each meeting to develop meeting topics for the next meeting.

### **First Lady Mari Culver**

Mari Culver was introduced to the committee. Mari thanked all of the members for their service with this committee, and talked about the importance of services for children and families. George B read part of a letter thanking Mrs. Culver for her organizing the Shelter Care Day.

### **Child Welfare Budget Planning for SFY 2010 and 2011**

The group started to discuss the budget. Rep Schulte noted that the opinions and suggestions of the members of the committee are very important.

The committee discussed the public hearing on July 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the budget, and decided to schedule a more detailed discussion of the budget and to hold the next meeting prior to July 8, so that CWAC could possibly submit recommendations to the Council. The committee further decided to ask Jan Clausen (CFO for DHS), to come to the next meeting and do a presentation on the budget process, and to focus on specific program areas within child welfare as well as the overall child welfare budget at the next meeting.

### **Public Comment**

There was not any public comment.

### **Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be June 22nd from 10:00 till 3:00.

Topics will be:

- Adoption Subsidy
- Emergency Services- Mary will work with Jean McAleer to identify pre-reading.
- Budget Presentation-Jan Clausen
- Aftercare-Pals-Mary will work with George Belitsos to identify pre-reading
- MHI-Mary will talk with Sally about presenting
- Process of the Budget-Jan Clausen

Meeting Adjourned at 2:43 PM

Lori Vande Wall  
Recording Secretary