

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee
September 21, 2009**

Call to Order

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order at 10:06 am

Committee Members Present

Jerry Foxhoven
George Estle
George Belitsos
Miriam Landsman on phone
Jean McAleer
Nancy Magnall
Richard Moore
Kathleen Penkert on phone
Ronald Stehl
David Van Ningen
Mary Nelson
Rep. Charles Isenhardt
Sen. James Seymour
Rep. Renee Schulte
Sen. Amanda Ragan on phone
Kathleen Kilnoski
Cynthia Cox

Committee Members Not Present

Matthew McDowell
Tiffany Wilson
Randall Peters
Charles Krogmeier

Guests

Kristie Oliver
Molly Kottmeyer
Tom Lazio
Pam Alger
John Pollak

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Magnell's name was omitted from the Minutes and would like it added as not attending last month's meeting. David Van Ningen moved to approve the minutes, as amended Kathleen Kilnoski seconded the motion. The August 8th 2009 minutes as amended were 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.

There were several questions about DHS intent to contact to ensure that staff have access to necessary medical expertise in child abuse causes. George B. asked if this would be one team or several across the state. Mary said at this point she believes one team that would be accessible to everyone, but that is something that they will discuss in a meeting that they are having tomorrow 09-22-09 with physicians from the Polk County Multi-Disciplinary Team. Mary said that we do not want to substitute for the experts that are local to the area. This team would be more focused towards particular complex cases, situations where DHS needs a second opinion and potentially rural areas that do not have these medical experts readily available. George B asked that (CWAC) have an update on the child protection medical team at our next meeting. George E asked if this would be a review of the DHS process with a child abuse case. Mary said this is not a review, but is intended to provide medical expertise during the child abuse assessment process. CWAC members also had questions about what review process in place for child abuse deaths and high profile cases, and decided to review the existing processes at their next meeting to determine if there were any gaps and if so, how best to fill. Mary also noted that DHS is developing abbreviated documentation requirements for child abuse assessments where no child abuse was found, and where there were no safety or risk issues. Mary will keep the group informed as DHS progresses through this process.

Other topics Mary touched on were the Parent Partners. She wanted to point out the positive study coming out of the Center for Social Service Research at the University of California at Berkley.

Mary noted that we ultimately received four (4) applications for the Transitioning Youth Initiative. DHS will be able to support three (3) additional sites.

Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Court Collaboration: Mary noted that DHS will be able to update the CWAC at our meeting in November regarding the results with the pilot.

There was discussion regarding parents and drug abuse and how it relates to how long children are in foster care. Members expressed concern that the longer that mothers have to wait for treatment it takes just that much longer that children have to stay in foster care. Dick asked the chairs if we could make recommendations to the Department Public Health also. It was also brought up that once the children are removed from the home a lot of parents are no longer Medicaid eligible. George B said mothers with children and pregnant women are moved to the front of the list when it comes to drug rehab. Kathy P would like to see the department take a more visible role in this for when DHS goes to

the CFSR review next year. She would like to see something like “We know this is an issue and here are the steps we are taking to remedy the problem.”

Group Care-Technical Assistance. Mary noted that Kristie Oliver and four (4) group care providers, JCS Staff and four (4) DHS staff will meet with the CWLA staff in early November to finalize the scope of work for their consultation. When they actually begin their work in Iowa, CWLA will engage all group care providers.

George E asked about the community care contract that was discussed at the last meeting. Mary, Kathy and Kristie were going to meet and review monthly and quarterly community care reports and to develop a quarterly report to be posted on our web site. Mary reported that they did meet and they developed a draft format that takes each childwelfare contract and provides data on the performance measures in the contract, the minimum performance expectations and the quarterly data on actual performance. The second page would explain each of those measures. (A copy of the draft is posted on web site.) There were no suggestions for revisions from CWAC members. DHS will start bringing this report on a quarterly basis to CWAC and posting it on the web site for the public.

Title IV-E. Mary noted that, while the federal government may require DHS to make changes in how we claim Title IV-E funds for administrative costs, we are currently following an approval state plan. Based on the recent federal review, it appears that the federal Department of Health and Human Services may be changing their interpretations of some of the federal requirements.

Cynthia Cox asked if there was a report on the MHI Task Force that is traveling around the institutions. Pam Alger said last week the Task Force met in Cherokee. The group took a tour of the facility and heard from the community. The group will be going to all 4 facilities and they will make their recommendations to the Department by mid November. The Department will have its recommendation to the Governor’s office by December 15th. George E asked if CWAC would be able to see the Task Force report before it went to the Department, and Pam explained that the report would be public.

DHS Budget—(Handout is posted on the Web)

Mary reviewed the SFY 2011 Budget. Offer documents that are posted on DHS website,(summarizing the same presentation that she did for the Council on Human Services), including the introductory pages and Offers 6-9.

Pam Alger gave a brief explanation of the budget offer that covers (children’s mental health).

Private-Public Partnership Summit

The CWAC postponed this agenda item until the next meeting.

Finance Project Work on Option to Extend Foster Care Past Age 18

The CWAC postponed this agenda item until the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was not any public comment.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be November 13th 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

- Review processes in place to review child abuse fatalities.
- Child protection investigation medical team update.
- Private-Public Partnership Summit (Kristie Oliver and Mary Nelson)
- Finance Project work on Option to Extend Foster Care Past Age 18

Meeting Adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Lori Vande Wall
Recording Secretary