

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee
October 14, 2008**

Committee Members Present

Jerry Foxhoven
Nancy Magnall
George Belitsos
David VanNingen
Kathy Penkert
Jean McAleer
George Estle
Kathleen Kilnoski
Dick Moore
Randal Peters
Miriam Landsman
Mary Nelson
Gene Gessow

Committee Members Not Present

Senator Amanda Ragan
Matthew McDowell
Tiffany Wilson
Senator James Seymour
Representative Janet Petersen

Guests

Margaret Wright
Molly Kottmeyer
Anne Gruenewald
Ann Harrmann

Call to Order

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order and took roll.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Kathleen Kilnoski to approve the Minutes, the motion was seconded by Dick Moore and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Introduction of the New DHS Director

Jerry Foxhoven introduced Gene Gessow, the new director for DHS. Gessow shared his back ground with Iowa DHS and his life before Iowa. He also spoke about his goals and priorities identifying "Keeping Children Safe" as his top priority.

Report on 2008 Summit on Public/Private Partnership

Margaret Wright (DHS) and Ann Gruenewald (Four oaks) shared what they had learned at the 2008 summit on public/private partnerships, a conference they attended in Kentucky. Representatives from 30 of the 50 states were present. A hand out was shared with the committee and explained what was covered at the conference. There was some discussion around how to move towards implementing and achieving the goals of the Public/Private Partnership concept.

DHS Update

Mary Nelson provided a brief DHS update. Included in this update was a discussion around Shelter Care Emergency Services. The group addressed the concerns regarding loss of dollars and the loss of empty beds.

A motion was made by George Belitsos for DHS to make a request to Area Managers to move more beds into emergency services. They would like to advise the Shelters to add more beds to the Emergency Services so that money does not go away. Dick Moore seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. The motion was approved with 9 members voting in favor of the motion, and 2 members (George Estle & Jean McAleer) voting opposed.

Recent Federal Legislation

Handouts for H.R.6893 were provided to the committee. Mary Nelson shared that the Department is reviewing the federal legislation and determining the impact in Iowa related to state legislation, other policy and procedure changes, and budget needed to cover the new laws listed in the hand out.

Jerry Foxhoven suggested that the committee send a letter to Senator Charles Grassley thanking him for sponsoring the bill and pushing to get these items passed. Kathleen Penkert made a motion to this affect. Miriam Landsman seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Updates

Capacity

Kathleen Penkert and George Estle shared a survey that has been sent out to 42 providers. As of today 23 completed surveys have been returned, 16 providers have not responded, and 3 providers have indicated that they are still working on the survey. The committee will analyze the results once they are all received and use the information in deciding how to move forward.

Education

Randal Peters provided an overview of what the education subcommittee has been working on and provided a handout detailing their efforts. The committee will meet with the Judicial Branch and the Departments of Education and Human Services on 10-22-08 from 10:00 to 1:00 in the Judicial Building in room 274. There is also a meeting on 12-

05-08 with Kathleen McNaught of the American Bar Association Legal Center for Foster Care and Education. The place for this meeting is yet to be announced.

Permanency

This group last met on 09-28-08. It was shared that DHS has an existing Permanency group. The CWAC permanency subcommittee requested that the DHS permanency group meet with them and collaborate. They are now one group. The group talked about visitation and family interaction with the child. The next meeting will be 11-06-08 at 3:00.

Chapter 230A Stake Holder Advisory Committee Report

The Advisory Committee will be making recommendations to the Department on 230A, which defines what constitutes a Mental Health Center and where they are.

Legislative Proposals, Recommendations and Actions

There were no Legislative Proposals, Recommendations and Actions at this meeting.

Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held December 15th, from 10:30 to 2:30 at the Drake Law Clinic. There will also be a phone available for those who wish to call in.

The meeting in January will be held on January 14th from 10:30 to 2:30 at the Drake Law Clinic; there will also be a phone available for those who wish to call in.