

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee
December 15, 2008**

Committee Members Present

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

Committee Members Not Present

Amanda Ragan
Matthew McDowell
Tiffany Wilson
James Seymour
Janet Petersen
Ron Stehl

Guests

Molly Kottmeyer
Ann Harmon

Call to Order

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order and took roll.

Approval of Minutes

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

DHS Update (Administrator's Report)

Mary Nelson gave a broad overview of items that are taking place in Child welfare.

Gene Gessow, (Director for the Dept of Human Services), spoke about the budget and . 5.7 million dollars shortfall the agency is facing. Gessow said that DHS will accomplish making these cuts by looking at the current operating budget. Steps being taken to address this issue include eliminating staff overtime, reducing travel and holding vacant positions open. Gessow said he does own the problem, but he does not own the solution and is very welcome to suggestions to the problem.

Action Items

No Action Items.

Mini CSFR

Nancy Magnall gave a short overview of a Mini CSFR that she participated in at Cedar Rapids. She was only able to attend two days, but she was very impressed with the process, and did learn a lot. Mary Nelson said the Feds will be here the last day of the fair in August 2010 and would encourage any of the members of the committee to participate. See Mary Nelson if you can & would like to participate in a Mini CSFR.

Provider CA Subcommittee Report,

Kathleen Penkert went over the Provider Survey. Forty-two surveys were sent out and 29 were received back. There was some discussion concerning the Survey. Jerry Foxhoven asked what the group should do with the results? A discussion took place around having DHS review the survey respond back to the committee. A motion for this was made by George Belitsos and seconded by Cynthia Cox. It was voted on and it was not unanimous. A roll call was taken. The results of the roll call showed 10 members in favor, one not in favor and one abstained. Gene said that if they wanted the Department to respond, to allow 60 days for the Department to respond. The committee agreed to this.

Emergency Child Mental Health Services RFP

The RFP has been posted.

A motion was made for the Dept of Human Services to broaden future RFP's so that more bidders can apply. Roll call was taken. There were 10 "Y"s , 1 "Nay" and 1 Abstained. Motion Carried.

A motion was made for Dept of Human Services Mental Health Division to discontinue the moratorium for Chapter 24. Roll call was taken. There were 6 "Y"s and 6 Abstained. Motion Carried.

Jerry Foxhoven will draft and send a letter to Bill Gardam requesting that the Dept of Human Services to broaden future RFP's so that more bidders can apply and to request that The Dept of Human Services Mental Health Division discontinue the moratorium for Chapter 24.

Legislative Proposals, Recommendations and Actions

Legislative and Budget proposals are being drafted at this time. These will be included in the Administrator Report for the next meeting.

George Belitsos said that he had a meeting with Mari Culver this morning and she expressed an interest in coming to a CWAC meeting. Jerry will invite Mari to our meeting in January.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on January 14th from 10:30 to 2:30

The February Meeting will be held on February 23rd from 10:00 to 1:30

Meeting Adjourned at 2:10 PM

