

Child Welfare Advisory Committee

MINUTES

April 4, 2008

Committee Members Present

Randy Peters
Jean McAleer
Cindy Cox
Dick Moore
Ron Stehl
George Belitsos
George Estle
Kathleen Perkert
Nancy Megnall
Jerry Foxhoven
Miriam Landsman
Tiffany Wilson
Kathleen Kilnoski
Kevin Cocannon
Mary Nelson

Committee Members Absent

David VanNingen
Matthew McDowell
Amanda Ragan
Janet Petersen

Guests

Larry Brown, National Department of Child Welfare

Committee Purpose

The committee spent time discussing the role of the council. George Belitsos provided a hand out showing how the State of Illinois has laid out a similar type of board and suggested that the CWAC look toward moving to this type of set-up.

It was discussed and decided that the roll of this council is to review current bills and provide recommendations to the Department of how the committee would like to see the budget of the Department of Human services used. Following this legislative session, the committee will begin looking at next year. The committee we will be working as an advisory panel to the Department.

Child Welfare National Perspective and Trends

Larry Brown of the National Department of Child Welfare provided a presentation looking at child welfare on a national level and trends, including findings from the first round of the federal child and family service reviews.

Election of Officers

Jerry Foxhoven was nominated for the Chairman. The nomination was seconded. George Estle was nominated as the Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded. Nominations were voted on and passed unanimously. There were no other nominations.

Review of Current Legislation

The committee reviewed the current bills that are still active in the Legislature. They are as follows.

House Files

HF 2058 - Establishing a shaken baby syndrome prevention program in the Department of Public Health

HF 2310 - Requiring the Department of Public Health and Human Services to collect data and develop a protocol to address the relationship between substance misuse, abuse, or dependency by a child parent, guardian, custodian, or other person responsible for the child's care and abuse.

HF 2393 - Requiring a minority impact statement as a part of an application for a grant from the Department of Public Health, Human Services, or Human Rights and providing effective and applicability dates.

Senate Files

SF 2173 - Relating to case permanency plans, consent decrees, and attendance at proceedings in juvenile court.

SF 2212 - Relating to determinations in child in need of assistance (CINA) proceedings, and modifying the circumstance for termination of parental rights.

SF 2340 - Requiring certain identifying documents to be provided to children subject to a court order for out-of-home placement.

SF 2384 - Relating to the reimbursement of providers of child welfare services and providing an applicability date.

The committee proposed that they focus funding for:

1. PALS caseload growth;

2. Restoration of 1 million dollars for Shelter Care for alternative emergency services.

A motion was made to draft a letter identifying funding for PAL top priority. The letter would also request restoration of the 1 million for emergency child welfare services. This motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

There will be a phone conference call on Friday April 11th from 2:30 to 4:00. During this call there will be a discussion on the outstanding bills.

Adjourn

Submitted by,

Lori VandeWall
Recording Secretary

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