

## **Child Welfare Advisory Committee**

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

### **Committee Members Present**

Dave Van Ningen  
Jean McAleer  
Randal Peters  
Kathleen Penkert  
Jerry Foxhoven  
Mary Nelson  
Kathleen Kilnoski  
George Belitsos  
Miriam Landsman  
Nancy Magnall  
Cynthia Cox  
Janet Petersen  
Ronald Stehl  
George Estle  
Dick Moore  
George Belitsos

### **Committee Members Not Present**

Tiffany Wilson  
Matthew McDowell  
James Seymour  
Amanda Ragan  
Kevin Concannon

### **Guests**

John Pollak, LSA  
Kate Walton, Governor's Office

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order and took roll. There were five members of the committee absent.

Jerry Foxhoven opened up the conversation by asking the group for suggestions on what issues the CWAC should begin to look at and consider taking action on. Following the

development of the list of possible issues for the CWAC to address, Jerry Foxhoven requested that the group go back and discuss and prioritize those issues. The group then discussed the identified issues to determine how to prioritize them. It was suggested that the group start with four or five 5 issues in order to have enough time and resources to provide meaningful work around each issue. A decision was made to create the following four subcommittees:

### **Permanency**

Co-Chairs: George Belitsos, Dick Moore

Members: Kathleen Penkert, Nancy Magnall, Kathleen Kilnoski,  
Miriam Landsman, Margaret Wright

The purpose of this group is to look at several factors where permanency is a concern. This includes but is not limited to: children aging out of the system, outcomes for children aging out of the system, children that are not adopted, and parent child visitation. The group will look at the challenges to permanency for these populations and work to develop potential solutions.

### **Capacity**

Co-Chairs: Miriam Landsman, Kathleen Penkert

Members: George Estle, Jean McAleer, Ron Stehl, David VanNingen,  
Dick Moore, Mary Nelson

The purpose of this group is to look at a wide array of topics that impact community capacity, provider capacity and department capacity to meet the needs of children and families of Iowa. Some of the topics addressed will include the RFP process, staff retention, community dollars and improved working conditions for staff.

### **Education**

Co Chairs: Nancy Magnall, Randy Peters

Members: Ron Stehl, Cynthia Cox, Kathleen Kilnoski

The purpose of this group is to look at educational concerns for children in care. This includes the transfer of meaningful records, collaboration between schools, involvement of caseworkers and individuals working with children in care, proper education placement and the interplay of psychosocial impact.

### **Diversity**

Chair: Jerry Foxhoven

Members: George Belitsos, David VanNingen, Mary Nelson

The purpose of this group is to look at diversity and over representation of minorities within the child welfare system.

The first assignment for the subcommittees is to evaluate the scope of the issues they will address and identify what areas around these issue can be addresses and result in a completed work product by October. Co-Chairs will be responsible to, after today, develop the formal sub-committee, schedule a meeting, and begin work to bring back to the CWAC no later than October.

A request was made for a listing of all known existing committees or groups doing work around these issues.

The CWAC will next meet Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30a – 2:30p

Jerry Foxhoven adjourned the meeting at 12:13p