

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee
August 10, 2009**

Call to Order

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order at 10:13a

Committee Members Present

Jerry Foxhoven
George Estle
Dick Moore
George Belitsos
Kathleen Penkert
Cynthia Cox
Rep. Charles Isenhardt
David VanNingen
Mary Nelson
Charles Krogmeier

Committee Members Not Present

Ron Stehl
Kathleen Kilnoski
Jean McAleer
Matthew McDowell
Randal Peters
Tiffany Wilson
Nancy Magnall
Sen. Amanda Ragan
Sen. James Seymour
Rep. Renee Schulte

Guests

Jess Benson, LSA
Molly Kottmeyer, DHS
Teresa McMahan, DOM

Approval of Minutes

George Belitsos requested that a sentence be added to the section regarding Emergency Services in Iowa that captured Rep. Amanda Ragan's comments regarding intent of the legislature regarding emergency services.

Kathy Penkert moved to approve the minutes with the proposed edit being included. David VanNingen seconded the motion. The July 22nd, 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

DHS Update (Administrators Report)

Mary Nelson provided an update from DHS. The written report is available on the Child Welfare Advisory Committee webpage.

One topic of discussion was the community care contract. At Mary Nelson's request, Kathleen Penkert volunteered to work with Mary to develop a quarterly report that would summarize performance measures for all of DHS's child welfare contracts. George Belitsos requested that the coalition (Kristie Oliver) also be invited to assist with this. Mary Nelson agreed to arrange a meeting with Penkert and Oliver.

Dick Moore had a question regarding the Parent-Child/Family Interaction guidelines. He inquired about case numbers and requested a written document that could be shared publicly.

When discussing the Transition for Youth in Foster Care, Mary clarified that the caseload has been growing each year. She pointed out that as Iowa begins to improve in the areas of permanency, transition caseload numbers may decrease. She noted that there is some anecdotal evidence that some youth are choosing to age out of the system at age 18 instead of being adopted in order to prevent losing college assistance and related benefits that are available only to youth that age out of care.

George Belitsos shared that in addition to the numbers shown on the report there are an additional 130 youth that do not qualify for PAL (not currently working or in school, or do not meet income guidelines), but are receiving Aftercare Services under the Aftercare/PAL contract.

In addition to the items within the report, Mary Nelson also shared with the group that the Division of Child and Family Services has hired Kara Hudson as the new CFSR program manager/coordinator. Her start date will be August 21st. Nelson asked the group to contact her via email regarding if/how they would like to be involved with the CFSR process.

A question was asked regarding whether or not there would be any major RFP's being renewed or released within the next year. Nelson shared that contracts under an RFP are re-negotiated each year, but a new procurement process only takes place approximately every 6 years. Nelson also shared that there are two (2) contracts that will reach their six year max soon. They are Aftercare (July 1, 2010) and shelter care (July 1, 2011).

George Belitsos followed up on the portion of the DHS Update that addressed aftercare and PAL. He shared that there is a concern that limited funding may create a waiting list for PAL. One option being used to prevent this in the short term is the use of federal Chaffee dollars to off-set the budget shortfall in the PAL program. At this point, however, it's not clear if this will prevent the need for a waiting list for the entire fiscal year. Belitsos provided several handouts including a brochure and business card for the Iowa Aftercare Network and the April '09 participant survey.

MHI Update/Discussion

A request was made to include information about Clarinda Academy within this report too.

The MHI Task Force's first meeting will be held in Des Moines on 8/24. Future meetings will be scheduled at that time.

All members of CWAC are encouraged to attend the meetings, not necessarily as a representative of CWAC, but as an individual to learn more about what is going on and how to get involved.

A suggestion was made that the CWAC consider developing guiding principles to recommend to the task force around these issues. Molly Kottmeyer requested that this communication also be shared with John Pollack to share with the MH work group.

Permanency Subcommittee Report

George Belitsos provided a handout and brief overview detailing what the committee has been doing. This handout will be uploaded to the CWAC webpage.

A question was asked about permanency roundtables. Mary Nelson shared that they will begin this year with a goal of one or two being held before December. The plan is to include DHS Division of Mental Health and Disability Services in these activities and conversations.

DHS Budget Update

The revenue estimating conference meets in September. Currently revenues are still running below last year's projections. Revenues for the SFY '10 year balanced. It appears that for now we will not be furloughing with the exception of a possibility of 2 staff at one of the institutions. Vacancies are still being held open, resulting in increased caseloads. Currently DHS is developing the SFY' 11 budget which will be sent to the Council on Human Services in September.

George Belitsos referenced the minutes of the last meeting and brought to Charlie Krogmeier's attention that the CWAC had identified five (5) priorities to be brought to Council's attention. Belitsos reviewed those items which are:

1. Restructuring regions and the reasons why.
2. Avoid across-the-board cuts in programs.
3. Programs that have good outcomes should have priority in funding.
4. Transparency and Accountability.
5. Permanency Planning.

KIAZEN and LEAN

Teresa Hay-McMahon of DOM joined the meeting and provided a brief overview of a process being used within state government that focuses on streamlining work and being more efficient. There are two processes, LEAN and KIAZEN. McMahon provided a handout which she used to walk through her presentation. This handout will be available on the CWAC webpage.

After the overview of the LEAN process the group considered how this process could be applied to the work of the committee. The decision was that the CWAC may not be involved in the actual process, but could possibly recommend situations where this type of process should be implemented in order to improve efficiencies. Some areas that might be appropriate were:

- Geographic boundaries
- Transfer of education records
- Permanency
- MHI closing process
- IME process for remedial services

High Profile Cases in Iowa

CWAC members discussion whether they should be prepared to make legislative recommendations as a result of high profile child abuse cases. The group questioned their responsibility around high profile cases and whether or not the CWAC should get involved, review cases and/or make a statement.

Public Comment

There was not any public comment.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

- Monday, September 21st 10a – 3p.
 - MHI Study (Pam Alger, DHS)
 - Subcommittee Updates
 - Committee Membership
 - Workforce Issues (Miriam Landsman)
- Friday, November 13th, 10a – 3p
 - State Contracting
 - PMIC Discussions
 - Subcommittee Updates
- Friday, January 15th, 2010, 10a – 3p
 - Subcommittee Updates

Meeting adjourned at 2:52p

Michelle Muir
Recording Secretary