

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2011**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Members present: Wendy Rickman, Jerry Foxhoven, Denise Moore, Gail Barber, Rep. Renee Schulte, George Belitsos, Charles Palmer, Ann Gruenwald(phone), Jean McAleer(phone), Nancy Magnall (phone).

Members absent: Ron Stehl, Chris Secrist, Susan Walkup, Senator James Seymour, Senator Amanda Ragen, Rep. Mary Mascher, Edwin Daye, Jenna Oliver, Julie Phillips, Dick Moore.

Visitors: Debra Thompson LSA, John Pollak LSA, Kristie Oliver Coalition.

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the March 23, 2011 Gail Barber was listed as absent, Gail did not know she was on the committee, so she asked her name be removed from the absent list. The Minutes were approved as amended.

**The New Procurements**

Wendy gave an update on the Procurements; we went through a very competitive RFP process on the Service Array, It was a very value added process. We had very good conversations with the providers, and in the division we are finalized a number of 1 pagers and they are very nicely done, they are in the sign off process and Wendy intends to get those out at the beginning of next week. This is a product that Chuck Palmer can use and we can also use it with the media.

George Belitsos, as a provider, said he felt the process was very well done, George did make a request, and His request was that in the future that not so many RFP's be done at the same time. With so many being done at one time, it made it very tough on the providers to get them written and in on time. George loved the webinars that we had since the RFP's have been signed. He also stated that Aftercare services was not included, since it was not bid out this year, it was bid out last year, but he would also like to see it included in the webinar. Wendy said that there were two others that were done last year that were not included they were Community Care and IFAPA. Wendy said that they would see that they were put together and added.

Gail Barber added about the new provider from Florida, Gail really appreciated the weekly update that they did about the people that she was in contact with, Gail found it very helpful with getting to know what kind of agency it was.

Jean McAleer also stated that she thought the negotiations went very well also, she appreciated the support and the direction.

## **CFSR-PIP**

Wendy updated us on the CFSR review we had last August as a result of this we have a Progress improvement plan (PIP). Our plan has been submitted to the Feds and are anticipating an October 1<sup>st</sup> date for the implications date for this plan. When putting together our plan we tried to focus on Family interaction, Family team meetings and Addressing disproportionality

All of the groups that have been formed to see that we are following the plan have been charted. Wendy will be able to bring back a report to CWAC that structure and the pieces they are responsible for at our next meeting in November.

Gail B added that they are making sure that the Judges are aware of the changes that DHS are making, and there will be some additional training for the Judges.

## **CWAC Openings and How to fill them**

We need to fill some openings that we have on the Child Welfare Advisory Committee. Jerry Foxhoven said that George Estle resigned for the committee, George was the Co-Chair with Jerry and we will need to choose another.

We have three positions to fill. We need to replace George Estle he represented, Provider-PMIC. Wendy will check and see if we have a representative from education.

1. We will forward to everyone electronically the process of choosing and the application that was used in the past.
2. Make any recommendations (please check with the person you are nominating and make sure they are willing and able to participate).
3. Wendy and Jerry will review all, make recommendations and send down a list to Chuck.
4. Chuck will review and take a final list and take the list to the council for approval.

The council will review and give their approval or disapproval.

## **Legislative Studies**

Wendy gave us an update. We have 4 topics.

1. Child Abuse Registry, Jerry F. will be facilitate this group
2. County Attorney structure in Iowa, Fred Gay(Vanloo) will be facilitate this group
3. A request to look at detention and the methodology of making payment.
4. Sex abuse education for educators, Steve Scott will be over seeing this one.

Chuck P. has asked for a list of Membership, Meeting Schedules and Facilitator visit contract information.

When we receive it we will send out a master calendar out to the CWAC.

## **Report from the Permanency Subcommittee and the outcome of the Permanency Summit**

George B. handed out the Minutes from the last meeting that the subcommittee had, along with a list of the current committee members. George extended an invitation to any of the CWAC members that are not on this list that may like to join, please join. See attachments

The permanency subcommittee was the group that put together the blue print. The CWAC endorsed the Blue print. Renee Schulte asked Wendy If when she met with the Legislature giving them the update on the PIP, if she would take bound copies of the Blueprint.

The Blueprint served as a springboard for the Permanency Summit. The Permanency Summit was held here in Des Moines on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 270+ in attendance at the Summit.

Gail Barber said they could get bound copies if needed. Gail gave a brief overview of the summit; Juvenile Justice carried the ball for the summit. The Summit is held every two years.

### **Closing of Four Emergency Youth Shelters and Consequences**

George B shared that the only part of the DHS budget that did not get covered was Emergency services. With the RFP for emergency services there were 4 shelters that are closed or closing. Of these 4 shelters, 2 shelters did not apply for the RFP. They felt they did not fit the RFP and two of the shelters did apply for the RFP, received lower scores and did not receive any money.

The 4 shelters were all from the central Iowa area. The Indianola shelter closed because they did not receive any funding, The Newton shelter closed in March or April of this year, Polk County closed (did not apply), and Clarinda closed.

George handed out a map of the where the emergency shelters are located in the state. See attachment.

George has some concerns with the Emergency bed situation, since 4 of the shelters closed, All of the existing shelters are very busy. There are new rules also.

He also shared his concerns about lack of shelter services in southern Iowa. Ottumwa is the only shelter in Southern Iowa since the other shelters have closed.

Ann Gruenwald suggested that the monthly reports that Jim Chesnik's (DHS employee) before the next meeting, that this information will help us know where to go next on the need of where shelters are needed.

Rep. Schulte explained that this is a casualty of politics, the Legislature saw the dollars sitting there not being used and in this tight budget times they were taken, not knowing the full impact, she said seeing Georges map was the first time she had really seen where these shelters are located. This is information that needs to be shared with the Legislatures during next year's session.

### **Public Comment**

Kristie Oliver expressed that she really enjoyed the conversation today. Her group took the information and they are having really good discussions on the topic of the emergency shelters and how to move forward.

Wendy listed some items she would like to see as Agenda, they were as follows.

1. Agency Standards
2. Pip Update
3. Permanency Subcommittee
4. Legislative interim committee update
5. Mental Health redesign update
6. Membership update

If there are others anyone would like on this list please send them to Wendy and she will make sure they are added. Also review this list and if there is anything you would like changed please send it to Lori or Wendy and we will take care of it.

The next meeting will be held November 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 till 3:00 at the Drake Law Clinic 2400 University Ave.



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Adjourned at 2:59 pm