

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee  
September 8, 2008**

**Committee Members Present**

Jerry Foxhoven  
Nancy Magnall  
George Belitsos  
David VanNingen  
Sally Titus  
Ron Stehl  
Kathy Penkert  
Jean McAleer  
George Estle  
Kathleen Kilnoski  
Dick Moore  
Randal Peters  
Cindy Cox  
Miriam Landsman

**Committee Members Not Present**

Amanda Ragan  
Matthew McDowell  
Tiffany Wilson  
James Seymour  
Janet Petersen  
Mary Nelson

**Guests**

Margaret Wright, representing Mary Nelson  
Sue Lerdal, Legislative Services Agency

**Call to Order**

Jerry Foxhoven called the meeting to order and took roll.

**Approval of Minutes**

George Belitsos motioned to approve the minutes pending the addition of his name to the list of attendees.

Kathleen Penkert requested clarification around when this committee would take issues to the legislature. Jerry Foxhoven indicated that the purpose of this group is to work with DHS, but in times when the committee feels it is necessary they may take issues directly to the legislature.

Jean McAleer seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **DHS Report**

The group was provided a handout with a brief update around issues that DHS is currently looking at that might be of interest to this committee. Margaret Wright provided a verbal review of this document.

### Shelter Care Emergency Services

This generated a great deal of discussion around the impact of lost beds and the value of funding empty beds. The group agreed that until the DHS budget is made public it is not possible to make any recommendations to DHS around this issue. The DHS budget will be made public and posted to the DHS website on Thursday of this week.

Sue Lerdal clarified that the legislature was very clear last year that they did not want to continue to pay for empty beds. She encouraged the group that this year providers need to look at alternate ways to address shelter care.

As the service areas begin to develop their individual plans Jim Chesnik, DHS program manager, will work with providers to develop a summary to communicate with the legislature and the public. CWAC would like to review reports that come in from these pilot projects. CWAC will also be involved in developing recommendations as to how DHS should move forward with this issue.

### Provider Training Appropriation

Under Senate File 2425, DHS will contract with the Coalition for Children and Family Services in Iowa to administer provider training. An initial meeting was held last week to get this off the ground. The group will meet again next week to define the scope of work and outline the training. CWAC does not feel they need to be further involved with this at this time.

### Legislation on Options for Growth Mechanism for Provider Reimbursement

Under Senate File 2425 DHS is to develop options for providing a growth mechanism for reimbursement of child and family services. This impacts all service providers. One question raised by the group was how this process will impact the RFP process that the Department currently utilizes. CWAC would like the capacity subcommittee to begin looking at this.

### Community Care Contract

DHS is currently preparing to re-procure the contract for Community Care services. A draft of the RFP will be issued for comment this month. The final version will be posted in January 2009 with applications due in April 2009. The group discussed using the RFP survey developed by the capacity subcommittee as a means for capturing public comment around this RFP.

A question was raised around the Magellan contract that is soon to be up for renewal. Sally Titus clarified that this RFP will also be posted to the Bid Opportunities website for public comment.

It was clarified that inviting public comment is not a requirement of the states competitive bid process, but is a step that is sometimes taken.

CWAC would like to include this as part of the capacity work group and as an agenda item for the CWAC group as a whole.

#### DHS SFY 2010 Budget Request

The DHS budget will be made public and posted to the DHS website on Thursday of this week. Sally Titus shared that DHS, like all state agencies, has looked closely at the impact of the recent flooding and natural disasters and how this will impact the budget.

#### Children's Bureau Quality Improvement Center on Privatization of Child Welfare

Kathy Penkert suggested that IA DHS look at the CW privatization center in Florida. Kathy will provide contact information to Margaret Wright for this center.

Sally Titus provided additional updates that were not part of the handout.

- Healthcare Insurance to uninsured children in Iowa - There continues to be a lot of energy around how to meet the needs of uninsured children.
- Through MHDS the department is in the process of releasing a RFP to put in place emergency safety net services. This RFP will issue later this fall. Last sessions the legislature allocated \$1.6 million for this.
- DHS will issue an RFP for moving ahead with a system of care for children with emotional issues. Currently there is a pilot in the Dubuque county area. There is funding to issue a RFP for this beginning in January 2009. The idea is to put into place school based mental health services.
- Sally recommended that CWAC take a stronger look at mental health services.

#### **Action Items**

Following the DHS report the group looked at action items to follow up on in response to this report.

No action items were requested.

#### **Pending Federal Legislation**

Jerry Foxhoven provided a brief overview of the handout issued to the committee that took a side-by-side look at pending federal legislation. A request was made to have CWAC track the Juvenile Justice reauthorization

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### Permanency

The group is looking at two key issues to make recommendations on:

1. Children aging out of the system, outside of the PAL program. Recommending developing an explanation over the 3-year plan.
2. Visitations. Developing a recommendation to improve parent/child visitations and their importance to permanency and reunification. This is something that the CWAC may need to look at more closely and be prepared to make decisions around at the next meeting.

Sally Titus requested that this subcommittee provide their logic sets for their prioritized list of things to be done around these two issues.

George Beltisos, on behalf of the permanency subcommittee motioned that CWAC develop a request to the legislature for full funding for the PAL program if the DHS budget, which will be revealed later this week, does not call for this. This motion passed unanimously. (As a full subcommittee made this motion a “second” was not required.)

The permanency subcommittee will meet again on 9/29.

Jerry Foxhoven shared that he is drafting legislation on behalf of Elevate. This will be shared with CWAC as it is developed.

### Capacity

The subcommittee has held two conference calls. They are currently focused on two areas:

1. RFP process for provider selection and the impact on service capacity within the community, how services are viewed, and what the experience of providers is in responding to RFP's.
2. Review current contract performance

### Education

The subcommittee is looking at educational concerns of children in care. They are also looking at policy, legislation, gaps, and local level practice. The three areas of that the subcommittee would like to impact first are:

1. Timely enrollment and transfer of school records
2. Children in care remaining in their school of origin.
3. Collaboration of all parties when planning educational placement for children in care.

### Diversity

The group has not yet met. Jerry Foxhoven, the subcommittee chair, is in the process of gathering information around what DHS is involved in currently to look at what is happening and the impact.

### **Public Comment**

Jerry Foxhoven opened up the floor for public comment. There was none.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, October 14 10:30a to 2:30p

### **Other Items**

Dr. Allen Parks, DHS, MHDS is looking at revising mental health language chapter 230a. Dick Moore was contacted directly and asked to serve as the CWAC representative on this committee. A concern was raised that this committee selected a CWAC member rather than coming to the CWAC as a whole to request a representative.

The group decided that Dick Moore would remain on this committee. Sally Titus will request of Dr. Parks that George Estle be added to the MHDS committee as well. The CWAC committee agreed that if one of the two CWAC representatives were unable to attend they would contact another CWAC member to attend in their place.

### **Adjourn**

Jerry Foxhoven adjourned the meeting at 2:21p.