

## **CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2011**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Members present: Wendy Rickman, Jerry Foxhoven, Dick Moore, Denise Moore, Edwin Daye, Julie Phillips, Ann Gruenwald, Jean McAleer(phone), Nancy Magnall (phone), Jenna Oliver (phone).

Members absent: George Estel, Ron Stehl, Chris Secrist, Susan Walkup.

Jerry Foxhoven welcomed everyone to the newly revamped Child Welfare Advisory Committee meeting (CWAC).

#### **Legislative Changes to CWAC**

Wendy explained that CWAC is now under the DHS Council where the prior CWAC reported to the Governor.

The CWAC used to be made up mostly of providers and now it is still providers, but also includes youth and parent partners.

The purpose of CWAC is to advise the DHS council. Wendy also sees the group being more involved in the policy part of DHS than the previous committee was. The DHS council did not want the committee to start out without direction and the council came up with three items they would like CWAC to focus on in the beginning. The three issues that the council decided on are as follows:

1. The Permanency Blueprint
2. Disproportionality
3. Exclusion of Non custodial parents, specifically Dad's.

Wendy would also like CWAC to take a look at the Departments 4-B and 4-E Federal Plan.

The committee is Co-facilitated by Jerry Foxhoven and George Estel. The council wants to meet with them face to face once a year, and if there are times any of the committee members feel that they would like to meet with the DHS council, that can also be arranged.

#### **Update from the Permanency Subcommittee**

Dick Moore talked about what the committee has completed in the past 2 years specifically the Permanency Blueprint. The work has been done by committee members and DHS employees. The blue print was sent out to all committee members prior to the meeting today. (see attachment). Dick shared they will be holding a Children's Justice Summit in May, the summit is on Permanency. They will discuss topics such as Family and Youth Engagement, Family Preservation, Placement and

Reunification, Adoption and Guardianship, and Transitioning to Adulthood. These topics are all in the Blueprint and this will be used in the discussion at the summit.

Dick Moore made a motion that CWAC endorse the Permanency Blueprint, Ann Gruenwald seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.



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### **Child & Family Service Review (CFSR) UPDATE**

The CFSR is a Federal review of the state of Iowa's welfare system. Wendy shared that Iowa did not pass the review, but there are no states that pass the review. One of the requirements for the Feds is that we need to do a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The PIP was worked on by many different groups of people, focus groups, parents, children & tribal partners were all a huge part of the PIP development. The PIP plan was due to our Federal partners by March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011, ours was sent in on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The items that the Department worked on are family interaction, family team decision making and the involvement of the family (both parents), quality assurance and training (Joint training of DHS staff and providers).

If anyone is interested in reading anything that we have in accordance with the CFSR PIP it is on the DHS web site under the welfare tab.

### **General information and questions**

Jerry explained the subcommittees from the old CWAC. If any of the current committee members would like to be on any of the subcommittees e-mail Jerry at [jerry.foxhoven@drake.edu](mailto:jerry.foxhoven@drake.edu) Jerry also wanted to encourage everyone to also let him if you know of anyone outside of CWAC that would fit well on any of these subcommittees.

A question was asked about payment for travel to the meetings would be a possibility for the youth and the parent partners attending the meetings. Wendy said that she would check into it and let us know at the next meeting.

It was decided that the committee will meet Quarterly, unless a need arises for CWAC to meet sooner, then Jerry and George will call a meeting at that time. Wendy, Jerry and George will meet and decide the dates, time and place and will let everyone know as soon as that has been completed. Jerry will also set up committees and that will also be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 11:10