

DHS Report to the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) August 10, 2009

The following are update items that may be of greatest interest to the Committee. For each of these items, the Committee may want to discuss how they want to be updated or engaged.

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children

- **Family Team Meetings.** During August, the CPPC Family Team Meeting workgroup will host bi-monthly FTM seminar calls. Topics will include domestic violence and mandatory reporting expectations within community based FTM. The workgroup will also hold a train the trainer event for master and approved CPPC FTM trainers. In addition, five CPPC sponsored FTM trainings are scheduled for 2009-2010.
- **Work Plan/Regional Meetings.** On 8.11.09, the CPPC Executive Committee will meet to update the yearly CPPC work plan. Regional Community Partnership meetings are scheduled for September 9, 15, and 17.

Child Protection

- **Child Abuse Legislation.** On 7.1.09, DHS implemented a new type of abuse that was added to state statute this year. The new type of abuse involves a caretaker knowingly allowing unsupervised contact or custody or control of a child by a registered sex offender or a person required to register who is not the caretaker's minor child or spouse. This abuse type replaces the former abuse type of cohabitation with a registered sex offender.

Community Care Contract

- Under the new Community Care contract with Mid Iowa Family Therapy, Inc., Mid Iowa will provide monthly and quarterly reports to DHS that will enable DHS to publish the following information on a quarterly basis:
 - Performance on outcome measures
 - Collaboration with communities and other organizations
 - Types of services provided to families

Parent Partners

- Following is a summary of Parent Partners activities over the April – June 2009 quarter.
 - Number of active parent partners: 34
 - Number of families with parent partner: 201
 - Most common parent partner activities: Face-to-face and other contacts with families, helping parents access services, supporting families at court, and attending family team meetings
 - Other activities: Presentations at various trainings, parent orientation
- The Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC) has selected Iowa's Parent Partner approach as a child welfare implementation site. On 7.15.09 and 7.16.09, MCWIC met with Community Partnership state coordinator, Sandy Lint and Parent Partner state coordinator Kyla Madsen to create a work plan and logic model that will move Parent Partners toward "approved implementation project" status. MCWIC will return on 8.10.09 to meet with DHS' Child Welfare Stakeholders Panel to get their input on engaging parents in case planning,

family interaction and policy/practice. As an approved implementation project, Iowa will be able to increase the number of Parent Partner sites; provide resources and opportunities to Parent Partners, DHS, foster parents, and others to increase their capacity to serve families; and track and report how the approach impacts practice and outcomes.

- Recently, IFAPA worked with Parent Partners to develop a training curriculum that will help birth parents and foster parents work more effectively together. On 7.27.09, 6 Parent Partners and 5 foster parents completed the IFAPA/Parent Partner Train the Trainer event. IFAPA training consultant Jessica Culp will work with these trainers to provide this learning opportunity.
- Potential new sites taking steps toward implementation are:
 - Webster County (meetings held on 7.2; 7.23; and scheduled for 8.6)
 - Johnson County (meetings held on 7.20)
 - Floyd, Mitchell, Chickasaw, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Winnebago and Worth counties and Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, Franklin and Grundy counties (meetings scheduled for 8.6 and 8.19)

Parent-Child/Family Interaction Guidelines

- Approximately 2,000 people were trained on parent-child/family interaction through early July, 2009. This included DHS staff, FSRP providers, foster parents, and attorneys. Surveys are still being compiled but overall appear to be positive in responses and comments. The training Champions met in June to debrief and again, were very positive about the response from participants.
- Norma Ginther will provide training through IFAPA for foster/adoptive parents on 10.20.09 in Des Moines.

Transition for Youth in Foster Care

- **Transition for Youth in Foster Care – Preparation for Adult Living.** Following are PAL caseload numbers for the last several months. DHS will again be supplementing the state funding for PAL with federal Chafee dollars in order to avoid/delay imposition of a waiting list.

Month-End	Caseload	Average YTD Caseload
June, 2009	334	293
May, 2009	288	290
April 2009	261	286

- **Medicaid for Independent Young Adults (MIYA).** In June 2009, there were 334 young adults served through MIYA, with an average monthly caseload of 358 for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.
- **Transitioning Youth Initiative.** Iowa’s Transitioning Youth Initiative (TYI), funded in collaboration with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, will begin its third year 10.1.09. Currently, there are six CPPC sites participating in this initiative, including NW Iowa counties of Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth, Ida and Sioux; Boone/Dallas counties; Cedar Rapids; Clinton/Jackson counties; Black Hawk county; and North Central Iowa Decat including Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Winnebago, and Worth counties. Iowa's Shared Youth Vision sites in Dubuque and Storm Lake are also participating. DHS recently sent out an announcement to CPPC sites regarding the opportunity to become a TYI site. Sites receive a small grant to support their work, as well as training and technical assistance to

implement the Iowa Youth Dream Team (IYDT) process – a youth-centered, individualized approach to support youth in planning for transition. Sites commit to adding at least one youth to their shared decision-making team, link to the nearest Elevate Chapter or other youth self-advocacy group, implement the IYDT process, increase awareness of community partners regarding the issues/concerns related to youth that “age-out” of foster care, engage multiple systems to coordinate services, and identify needed policy and practice changes to support successful youth transition. Sites interested in participating need to submit a readiness assessment by 9.18.09.

- **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).** DHS staff attended a national meeting on the NYTD in July. Staff are currently developing the business requirements for the system, which must be able to capture data on transition services provided effective 10.1.10, as well as initial outcomes for a population of youth in foster care that are age 17.

Disproportionality

- The CPPC disproportionality task team has decided to focus their work on identifying cultural competence training resources available to communities across the state.
- DHS has selected the following counties as sites for the Disproportionality BSC that is being supported in collaboration with Casey Family Programs: Woodbury, Des Moines, Linn, Johnson, Webster, Dubuque, Dallas, and BlackHawk. The initial faculty meeting is scheduled 8.6.09 and 8.7.09.

Education and Foster Care Collaboration

- The Education Collaborative convened for a phone conference 7.21.09, and reviewed a draft notice that could be used to inform the local school professionals when a child enters foster care. Attached to the notice is a questionnaire requesting the schools provide information for DHS and the courts to use when evaluating appropriate school placement. The questionnaire could be shared with a new school if a school change is necessary. Education Collaborative members agreed such a tool, if implemented, will improve communication between the schools and DHS, as well as inform the court of decisions made involving the education of the child. These tools will be vetted through a variety of stakeholders with hopes of being submitted to DHS leadership for approval over the next two months.
- The Foster Aunt and Uncle Project founder, Roger Ferguson, is currently working with one or more private colleges in Iowa to explore a federal grant opportunity through the Institute for Educational Services, a subunit of the US Department of Education, to implement the proposed pilot project aimed at assessing reading skills for youth in foster care and providing tutoring to assist those youth whose reading skills are not at grade level. Applications are due 10.1.09. Foster Aunt and Uncle Project staff are working to schedule a meeting with DHS and DOE staff in the next month to review their proposed approach.

Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Court Collaboration

- **Protocol for Working with Families involved in both child welfare and substance abuse system.** DHS and DPH have begun data collection for inclusion in the report that is due 12.15.09, as required by HF 2310 (passed in 2008 Legislative session). DHS initially collected three months (July-September

2008) of data on the percentage of child abuse assessments in which the “child’s parent, guardian, custodian, or other person responsible for the child’s care was a factor in the report and finding of abuse”. In 30.1% of the total cases reviewed, there was a relationship between the primary and/or secondary caregiver’s substance abuse issue and the child protective assessment finding. DPH data collection determined that 22% of clients who received a substance use disorder evaluation during July-September 2008 had children who lived with them. A final report is due December 2010.

County Attorney Meetings

- DHS has begun meeting with the Iowa County Attorney’s Association Juvenile Justice Committee on a quarterly basis to discuss issues of mutual concern. Previous meetings have focused on child protection intake. The next meeting, scheduled in August, will focus on one or more of the following topics: child protective assessments policies and protocols -- especially related to referrals involving substance abuse, domestic violence and failure to provide mental health/medical care; safety plans; voluntary services vs. CINA adjudication; termination of parental rights; federal and state Indian Child Welfare Act cases; DHS policy development; and DHS expectations of county attorneys.

Child Welfare Provider Training

- The Child Welfare Provider Training Academy contract with the Coalition was renewed for SFY 2010. The SFY 2010 contract will focus on multiple skill levels from basic (new worker) to intermediate (more experienced) to advanced (experienced and supervisory level) courses for both front line staff and supervisors. The full training plan for SFY 2010 is due no later than 9-1-09.

Safety Plan and Family Safety, Risk and Permanency Services - **Mindy**

- Myers and Stauffer’s initial review of the market analysis of factors impacting provider rates is due 8-1-09, with the draft analysis of findings due 11-1-09. The final analysis of findings is due by 12-31-09.
- The workgroup, chaired by Doug Johnson and Evan Klenk, that is looking at alternatives for addressing safe case closure met for the first time 6.30.09, and has monthly meetings scheduled through the middle of October. Their goal is to have recommendations prepared for the Child Welfare Partners Committee by 11.1.09.

Foster and Adoptive Parenting

- **Proposed Rule Changes.** The Council on Human Services adopted the proposed rule changes in July; changes are effective 10.1.09. DHS will be working with IFAPA to develop information for foster parents on what the changes mean to them.
- **Iowa KidsNet (IKN) and IFAPA Contracts.** DHS, Iowa KidsNet (IKN), Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (IFAPA), and the Meskwaki Family Services (MFS) foster home coordinator have formed a Resource Families Partnership Team, and will meet monthly to work on ways to better coordinate activities and support for foster/adoptive parents.
- **AdoptUSKids.** AdoptUSKids, a technical assistance arm of the Children’s Bureau, conducted several focus groups in March and April 2009 on foster and adoptive resource homes issues. The report on their findings identified the

following key themes: improving communication between families, DHS, and providers; support to resource families, and families' sense of respect and value as members of the child's team. The Resource Families Partnership Team will identify strategies that are already in place or could be implemented to address these themes. The plan will be shared once completed.

Child Welfare Emergency Services

- The Department's pilot CWES projects in SFY 2009 finished out the year having reinvested \$355,032 by converting the funding equivalent of 21 guaranteed payment beds. The conversion of these beds left 246 guaranteed payment beds under contract in addition to the CWES. The year-end CWES report of all projects should be completed by 9.1.09.
- The final daily average shelter census for SFY 2009 was 188 and it is projected that \$2,321,376 will have been spent in SFY 2009 for unused shelter bed capacity.
- In July, Gary Lippe was named the new DHS co-chair of the Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) public/private partners' workgroup; he will begin the co-leadership duties at the next meeting of this workgroup planned for 8.20.09. The group will continue its work related to establishing a framework that will provide structure to CWES planning and delivery. This framework and input from representatives of the 11 CWES pilots were discussed at the shelter provider meeting held 6.18.09.
- DHS is engaging Legislative Service Agency (LSA) staff and the co-chairs of the Health and Human Services appropriation subcommittee to clarify Legislative intent related to the target population for CWES.

Group Care

- A statewide convening on strengthening the role of group care in achieving permanency for children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems was held on 6.29.09 in Des Moines. It was a collaborative effort planned by DHS, the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa, Children's Justice of the State Court Administrator's Office, and Casey Family Programs. It included 86 participants representing Iowa group care and psychiatric medical institution for children (PMIC) providers, DHS Service Area Managers and Chief Juvenile Court Officers, Elevate youth and their chosen significant adults.
- DHS is constructing a web page on the DHS website that will include a summary and all of the handouts distributed at the convening. DHS will continue to post documents related to group care on this page.
- As a follow up to the convening, DHS, the Coalition, and Children's Justice are planning community conversations that will be held around the state, hosted by the SAM's and Chief Juvenile Court Officers in order to continue discussions with a broader array of stakeholders related to group care and permanency, and group care's role in the child welfare and juvenile justice continuum of services. These community conversations are planned to take place over the next several months. Additionally, DHS, with the assistance of Casey Family Programs, will initiate permanency roundtable case reviews of children/youth in group care in selected jurisdictions.

Children's Centers

- The new administrative rules chapter 441 IAC 106 regarding safety standards for Children's Centers was adopted by the Council on Human Services on 7.8.09. The targeted effective date is 10.1.09.
- The adopted rules can be viewed at the following DHS web location:
<http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/policyanalysis/RulePages/RuleDocuments/RulesInProcess/Arc%208009b.pdf>

DHS Provider Partnership Steering Committee

- The next meeting of the DHS Provider Partnership Steering Committee will be scheduled in August or September.
- The steering committee met on 7.16.09 with the primary focus of planning major goals and pieces of work for the upcoming fiscal year and to explore how to improve communication to other stakeholders. The next meeting will occur in August or September. Doug Johnson of Lutheran Service in Iowa has assumed the role of provider co-chair.
- Mary Nelson (DHS) and Kristie Oliver (Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa) will be attending the Fourth Annual Summit on Public/Private Partnership on 8.11.09 and 8.12.09. The Summit is sponsored by the National Quality Improvement Center on the Privatization of Child Welfare Services.
- The Child Welfare Partners Committee web page has been created and can be found at the following link:
http://dhs.ia.gov/Consumers/Child_Welfare/BR4K/CWPC/CWPC.html

Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (FCSIAA)

- DHS and Children's Justice staff are continuing to work with The Finance Project to identify and analyze current spending on transitioning youth; and to help Iowa determine the impact of extending foster care to age 21 on youth, Courts, DHS and the state budget. Based on the 6.4.09 meeting of the Children's Justice State Council workgroup that is guiding this effort, a subcommittee met to develop program options/possibilities for what extending foster care would look like if implemented. The subcommittee had its first meeting 7.30.09 and will make recommendations to DHS and the Children's Justice Council. In addition, staff from DHS and other organizations, with The Finance Project guidance, have begun data collection efforts. The overall goal remains to complete the fiscal analysis by December 2009.
- The draft rules for the subsidized guardianship option have been submitted to the rule making process. The official notice should be posted in August. These rules would replace the current subsidized guardianship waiver; however the program would still need to be fiscally neutral. DHS is finalizing the draft state plan amendment, which will then be submitted to the Regional Office in Kansas City.
- For more information on the federal law and DHS activities to implement, see http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Welfare/BR4K/Fostering_Connections/Fostering_Connections.html.

Title IV-B Child Welfare 5-Year Plan and Child and Family Services Review

- CFSR Preparation

- The Children's Bureau has scheduled 5 CFSR Planning calls with Iowa's CFSR Planning Team to occur between November 2009 and July 2010, and an initial Program Improvement Plan (PIP) call in September 2010.
- The Children's Bureau has also tentatively scheduled CFSR training for Iowa's state team in early August 2010.
- IV-B plan – DHS submitted Iowa's Five Year Title IV-B to the Kansas City Regional office on 6.30.09. DHS will post the plan on the DHS website once approved by the Kansas City Regional Office.
- Julie Allison is one of three panel members presenting at the 2009 Agencies and Courts meeting in WDC in August 2009. The workshop is titled "Unifying the Vision: Integrating the CFSR/PIP and the Children Family Services Plan (IV-B)".

Title IV-E Review(s)

- **Administrative Cost Review (ACR) pilot.** Iowa is participating in a pilot review of Title IV-E foster care administrative claiming. The review will examine Iowa's system for reporting and claiming Title IV-E federal funding for administrative costs, including costs associated with case management by DHS caseworkers, foster care recruitment and licensing, and administrative costs for other state departments (DIA licensing staff and child advocacy board staff) and counties. Ultimately, the Children's Bureau will be conducting IV-E administrative reviews in all 50 states. Participating in the pilot enables Iowa to influence the final review process, as well as identify any possible areas for improvement prior to the actual reviews.
- **IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review.** Iowa's next federal IV-E foster care eligibility primary review is scheduled for the week of 9.27.10. This review examines the accuracy of Iowa's IV-E eligibility determinations, including financial eligibility and court order language for children, placed by DHS or JCS. Iowa passed the last IV-E foster care eligibility review, which was held in September 2007.