

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee
February 20, 2020 1:30 PM-3:30 PM
MINUTES**

Attendees

In-Person: Trish Fox, Rich Bobby, Viviane Ngwa, Beverly Jones, Raul Garza, Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz, Jason Keeler, Kathy Grzelak, Mary Ann Berg, Dan Kotowski, Malia Arnett, Zach Schrantz, Chris Cox, Pat Ege, Eric Foster, Andi Durbin

DCFS: Kimberly Mann, Robert Blackwell, Stefanie Polacheck, Denice Murray, Amanda Wolfman, Hope Carbonaro, Desi Silva, Lori Gray, Derek Hobson, Jassen Strokosch, Jason House, Royce Kirkpatrick, Tierney Stutz, Ashley Deckert, Tracey King, Douglas Washington

Public: Mari Christopherson, Curt Holderfield, Kimberly Casey, Margaret Vimont, Elke Hansen, Audrey Pennington, Kacy Anderson, Melissa Webster, Dennis Delgado

Phone: Darryl Johnson, George Vennikandam, Mary Savage, Ruth Jajko, Terry Carmichael, Melissa Riddle, Marci White, Norma Machay, Jennifer Marett, Michelle Grove, Brian Finley, LaTasha Roberson, Tiffany Jones

Welcome and Introductions

- Membership renewals/ Welcome new members
 - Trish welcomed new members and thanked members who stepped down to give others a chance to participate.
- Approval of November Minutes
 - Email Stefanie Polacheck if you participated in the November meeting but it's not noted on the minutes.
 - Trish Fox requested motion for approval of November minutes. Dan Kotowski motioned, Malia Arnett seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Directors Report – 15 Minutes

Director Smith not in attendance. No report was presented.

**If you are unable to attend this meeting in person,
please dial: (888) 494-4032; Access code: 1819480398#**

Strategic Priorities – 50 Minutes

Discussion between Zach, Trish and several DCFS executives regarding CWAC operations. Settled on scheduling a strategic retreat to discuss key priorities. Requesting feedback from the team on current priorities of discussion, as well as representatives to plan the retreat. Scheduled for mid-April.

POS priorities:

1. Workforce issues – How to make jobs more manageable? Reduce duplication. Use of paraprofessionals or is CWEL only path to service delivery? Family First impact? Liability issues and wages. How to decide who becomes a supervisor?
2. Sustainable rate methodology
3. YouthCare/IlliniCare transition – Understand how the transition will impact child welfare system and different types of programs. What's covered in foster care contracts? Is there overlap? Make sure there's no service interruption.

DCFS priorities:

1. Resource development – Requires shared collaboration.
2. Accountability of service delivery and services provided – Need to offer training to clients and staff in time. Implementation needs to be sustainable and across the entire state.
3. Relationship credibility

Additional recommended topics:

- How Family First will impact the entire system and what resources need to be developed.
- Discuss benefits of healthcare transition for providers.
- In relation to the healthcare transition, are providers and the Department incorporating the proper interventions to address youths' underlying trauma?

There were several questions regarding MCO. Stefanie recommends attending the advisory board meetings. Meeting information is posted on the DCFS and HFS websites. Can also email Stefanie Polacheck directly to be added to the Outlook invite. Amanda Wolfman and Jassen Strokosch also commented that discussions are still taking place and things are in flux. Can email them for additional information.

DCFS items – 30 Minutes

- Budget (Royce Kirkpatrick) – four items: COLA, Rule 363, Family First, IV-E revenue
 - Budget proposal: \$1.46B. Purchased services make up 85% of that. Two-part discussion regarding contract COLAs: fixed rate and budget-based. Fixed rate contracts will have a 3% COLA for FY21. Will provide new standardized rate structure in March. Non-standardized rates will be provided later. Institution and QRTP enhancements are separate from the COLA and require further discussion. Budget-based agreements will have a 2% COLA for FY21. New supplemental form will have program FTEs added on line 1. At agency discretion on how it's operationalized. With budget-based COLAs, contract value will go up or down based on utilization. Agencies need to document utilization and outcomes. Line-item reconciliations for budget-based agreements that vary by 10% or \$1,000, whichever is greater, are needed before the end of May.

- Rule 363 (Residential Construction Grant) is a \$3M line item that targets brick and mortar investments. It's a grant that will follow GATA guidelines. Before the NOFO will go out, the final scoring for applications and types of awards need to be determined. This grant was put back into the budget due to feedback from providers. Available for existing enhancements and expansion, but expansion that increases residential capacity will be scored higher. **Need to verify that Shelter is included.** Covers costs incurred in FY21. Hope to post the NOFO within next 30 days, and it will need to be up for 30 days. All notifications will be through GATA. Grantees should be able to braid revenue with other soru
- As part of Family First implementation, there will be a roughly \$41M investment for foster care step-downs. These will be needed, especially with residential becoming a 12-month treatment resource. Evidence-based prevention practices will be developed as fixed rate agreements for IV-E return. Foster care caregiver and community support will be an IPS expansion to stabilize high end youth in placements. Institution and group home in-state expansion is to rebuild lost resources. QRTP enhancements will be seen in the rate structure, separate and above the 3% COLA.
 - Q. Is the Department open to contract amendments for foster care stepdown expansion? A. Yes, especially to move BMN youth to a less restrictive setting.
 - Q. Does the new rate structure include staffing support for transports, especially due to the increase in aftercare? A. There is an aftercare component in the rate. As we move into FY21, we will talk about a single QRTP model that will be used across the board.
 - Q. Is helping BMN youth step down in writing for the budget? A. It's part of the on-going commitment but not in writing.
 - Comment from Derek regarding QRTP: A team of DCFS and University partners will be visiting facilities to gauge readiness and/or help get ready. Visits will take place over the next 90 days.
- Good news: the Family First Transition Act provides additional FY20 funding which buys us time for the transition. This funding drops to 75% in FY21. Need to improve federal measures by end of September. A revised CFS 458B form for IV-E foster care eligibility was rolled out January 1st. So far, 42 forms have been received of the expected 900. Completed forms are required for clean-up. If assistance is needed to fill it out, send a message to the email address located at the bottom of the form. A reply will be sent to schedule an agency-wide WebEx training.
- HMR licensure has dropped by 20%, and Foster care candidacy has stayed flat at 64%. Both will have dashboards.
 - Q. By what date do we need to be off the waiver? Need to be off waiver by September 30th, 2020 and on own by October 1st, 2020.
 - Q. How has CFS 458B been communicated? **Strongly recommend the Department send a letter to agency executives/program directors regarding urgency.**
- PRO (Jason House) – An update was done this past October 1. Used all permanencies from FY19. Will update again on April 1st.

- Legislative Update (Meaghan Jorgensen)
 - There are currently 68 bills that impact DCFS. Six have passed onto committee. Three of those deal with the use of restraints. There are seven that deal with daycare. Several deal with intact and mandating various components. One bill removes all licensing except foster care licensing from DCFS and transfers it to DHS. Contact Jassen or Meaghan Jorgensen if you want to partner up on any bill you have an interest in.
 - Working with Sen. McGuire on SB2391. Incentive funding: scholarship money for students who agree to work in child welfare field after graduation.
 - HB5119: creates an income tax credit for expenses spent by foster parents related to being a foster parent.

- Racial Equity (Robert Blackwell, Elke Hansen)
 - Overview of committee. Chairs and membership a partnership between POS, DCFS and other entities that interact with child welfare system. Direct questions to Robert and Elke Hansen regarding interest in membership and other details. Upcoming training under group called Crossroads, which specializes in understanding and analyzing systemic racism.
 - Two main inter-connected goals in progress: 1) 10-week educational series called “Informing Our Practice by Race” that will be available on the DNET and website, and 2) pilot a Racial Equity Practice Model of Engagement for entire workforce.
 - People need to have a conversation to create awareness and understand that racial equity cannot be applied without being race-informed. Once everyone understands that these inequities exist and their impact on the families served, can then start changing child welfare practices to achieve better outcomes.
 - Will start 10-week series in summer of 2020. Preview scheduled for spring of 2020.
 - Expectation: utilize tools learned from the series in the work environment, with staff.
 - Pilot involves four sites: three with POS agencies, one with the Department. Details to be provided at next meeting. Objectives are early reunifications, increase reunifications and decrease length of stay. Anticipate pilot to last one year. Working with Jane Addams College of Social Work.
 - Q. Are any partners involved? Such as judicial: attorneys, judges, states attorneys, Public Guardians Office? Yes, transformation and action teams have judiciary members, in addition to others, at some level. The pilot will also include their representation.
 - Recommend Judge Maxwell Griffin Jr.
 - Q. What will Week Nine outline? Recognition that Department isn’t alone in working on racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Several POS agencies are and have been working on the same issues.

- Program Plan Reviews
 - Make sure committees that have a contract are prioritizing conversations within next 6-8 weeks to address concerns from the POS agencies.

- Q. Have program plans been distributed to respective committees? If not, encourage DCFS and POS co-chairs in each committee to plan out the review process.

Committee reports – 15 Minutes

No reports from the committees.

Part of strategic priorities conversation revolved around recommendations. Committees and POS agencies need to put forth clear ideas and recommendations to the director. DCFS also needs to work on a process to respond to those recommendations, whether it's decided to be implemented or not.

Next meeting: May 14, 2020 1-3:30PM