

Child Welfare Advisory Committee
May 14, 2020 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
MINUTES

Attendees

Members: Trish Fox, Zach Schrantz, Andi Durbin, Beverly Jones, Brian Finley, Christopher Cox, Dan Kotowski, Eric Foster, Harriet Kersh, Jason Keeler, Kara Teeple, Kathy Grzelak, Malia Arnett, Mark Werner, Mary Ann Berg, Melissa Ludington, Melissa Riddle, Nancy Forman-Schwartz, Nancy Hughes, Patricia Ege, Raul Garza, Rich Bobby, Ruth Jajko, Steve Budde, Terry Carmichael, Tiffany Jones, Toleda Hart, Viviane Ngwa,

DCFS: Director Marc Smith, Jassen Strokosch, Anika Todd, Dagene Brown, Darryl Johnson, Deborah Kennedy, Derek Hobson, Desi Silva, Elizabeth Richmond, Gaylon Alcaraz, Hope Carbonaro, Kimberly Mann, Lori Gray, Monico Whittington-Eskridge, Robert Blackwell, Royce Kirkpatrick, Stefanie Polacheck, Beth Solomon, Daniel Fitzgerald, Douglas Washington, Janet Ahern, Jason House, Jennifer Marett, Jill Tichenor, Juliana Harms, Julie Barbosa, Michelle Jackson, Norma Machay, Tierney Stutz, Tracey King, Yesenia Perez

Public: Audrey Pennington, Bridget Walls, Charles Montario, Deb McCarrel, Elke Hansen, Heidi Dalenberg, Hillery Morris, LaTasha Roberson, Marci White, Margaret Vimont, Melissa Kleeman-Moy, Michelle Churchey-Mims, Sarah Daniels

Welcome and Introductions – 1:00-1:10

- Completed roll call.
- Approval of February Minutes
 - Add Andi Durbin to attendees.
 - Zach Schrantz requested motion for approval of minutes. Dan Kotowski motioned, Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Director's Report – 1:10-1:30

- Thanked DCFS and POS teams and private partners for all efforts during crisis. Need to continue to anticipate issues for successful adjustments and implementation. Need a commitment from partners to 1) give input on how to move forward with anticipated issues, and 2) prepare staff and systems.
- Will receive messaging from Department once guidance is received from the Governor's Office on transition. DCFS Legal in constant communication with the court system and judges to stay flexible. Fiscal team working hard to ensure families and partners are receiving assistance and incorporating agency feedback.

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- Encourage agencies to prepare for influx of cases by reviewing hiring plans and staffing patterns.
- Moving forward with Family First plans to be bold and inclusive.
- All should consider the lessons learned during this crisis, and what practices we should keep and use moving forward.
- Asks that all agencies and partners make sure needed PPE is requested and available to staff.

Agenda Items – 1:30-2:30

- Update on DCFS organizational changes – Director Smith
 - Updates to organizational map will be coming out within next 30 days.
 - Denice Murray will be leaving Chief of Staff role as of June 30th. Jassen will take over.
 - Restructuring includes several adjustments. Desi Silva and Operations division will be transitioning under Derek Hobson to allow greater collaboration between Clinical and Operations. Under Jassen will be Licensing, supportive structure, Communications, Policy, and IT. Coming changes are to empower staff, be more agile, and improve cooperation.
- Finance update – Royce Kirkpatrick
 - Everything on schedule for FY20 closeout. Reminder: grant item line changes **must** be in before May 31st. Also, committees need to turn in items that have a fiscal impact since there are only a few months left to plan for FY22.
 - COVID-19 support will continue to be provided until the new date of May 31st. This includes 20% administrative add-ons for residential, the \$100 passthrough for foster parents and older youth. Information on passthrough assistance will be provided in writing.
 - Q. If different parts of Illinois relax stay-at-home orders earlier than others, will support vary among providers? DCFS has not received guidance on that yet.
 - Regarding COLAs for FY21: plan for them but don't incur costs yet. More information will be received at the end of May.
 - FAS proposal to allow offset of excess revenue against other program deficits for intact and foster care agencies has been received. Director Smith and Royce in support. Details will be fleshed out in writing with FAS.
 - Q. Are these based on calculations from 2019-20? From FY20. Regarding FY19, intact calculations were removed due to FAS's concern that communication wasn't as strong as it could've been. Will be included FY21.
 - Q. There's disproportionate spending between programs in relation to COVID-19 exposure. Is there an opportunity to review how excess revenue is being used and the potential to utilize across programs relevant to need for COVID-19? The FAS proposal has listed this as a recommendation. Flexibility allowance will be reviewed.
 - Coordinating with DHS and other sister agencies regarding the CARES Act and Payroll Protection Program. DCFS committed to ensuring revenue stream continues for agencies. Additional guidance is expected soon.
 - Q. Is there a timeline for the new FY21 contracts? Planning to mail out in June. Waiting on program plans so legal can finish reviewing.

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- Q. Can you expand on the family engagement and nursing pieces of the FY21 residential contracts? Information provided at last FAS meeting. The costs have been identified and planning to roll out in FY21. Budget assumption includes QRTP support for aftercare, nursing and training. The 3% is included in addition to the original amount. Each agency can operationalize as needed if terms and conditions are met.
- Family First vision and implications for Intact Family Services – Derek Hobson
 - The Family First array of services includes 12 interventions specifically picked for Illinois. One intervention, Motivational Interviewing, is meant to benefit the entire system. Planning to submit the plan to Director Smith and the Governor for review in early June. On target for plan submission by July 1st. Federal partners have provided positive feedback.
 - 71 responses have been received from the Call for Proposals. Planning to finalize selection by next week if not by May 11th. Looking to serve around 2,000 children and families under Family First and the various prevention models. Currently planning implementation, which includes how to support agencies, clinicians, and families; training, IT, and the evaluation of interventions.
 - DCFS will also be providing Home Visiting services, which is a partnership with sister agencies and the Erikson Institute. The endeavor is to provide services to parents with children ages birth-3, as well as parents that are prenatal to six months. Will serve as a passthrough for IV-E funding for sister agencies under Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers; but will not limit assistance to just families in those programs since they're not offered in all regions.
 - Residential programs are being assessed for QRTP readiness. This assessment is a partnership between Northwestern and DCFS Monitoring. Most are ready with QRTP components already in place. Group Homes will also be assessed for QRTP readiness but will not be included in first wave of implantation if not QRTP-ready.
 - Q. What will be the interaction between CWAC and Family First when building the infrastructure? CWAC partners are part of the individual Family First workgroups and already part of the process. Dr. Kim Mann and Dana Weiner also attend several CWAC committees to keep members up-to-date.
 - Q. Will Group Homes not QRTP-ready be serving youth at risk of human trafficking? Yes, especially due to restrictions with length of stay. Will be looking at each group home individually.
 - Q. Will the Spec Foster Care recommendation on continuum care tied to Family First be taken into consideration? Yes. Items in program plans with a financial impact will be delayed, but still being reviewed for consideration.
- Decrease in hotline calls and expectations/planning for FY21 – Desiree Silva
 - All SCR staff working remotely. Brief background on transition and success was provided. Have seen slight decrease in intake during this time. The executive order has mandated all youth home, and classes continue remotely. Without this source of mandated reporters, there has been an intake reduction of about 47% since March, but a slight increase in percentage of reports taken as intake reports.

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- Need to prepare system for response when the executive order gets lifted. Intake is expected to rise as law enforcement continues to respond to calls, as well as children return to normal school settings in the Fall. Preparation will include training and hiring adequate number of Hotline staff and field-level programming. Also working closely with Derek in anticipation of the rising trajectory on intake case opening due to Family First.
- Reviewing audit findings to streamline the SCR process and create a real-time response. Also looking to expand SCR to multiple sites across the state. Data is being analyzed on COVID-19 hotspots in Illinois to better inform the Hotline and plan timely responses.
- Working on messaging to educators and pediatricians about being thoughtful of what children and/or parents say and do in relation to maltreatment. Also encouraging law enforcement to report domestic calls when children are present. Communications is posting on general child well-being via social media for the public. The Governor also participated in the creation of a PSA for reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Q. Is there an increase in Hotline calls from Police and/or hospitals? Mandated reporters do account for the largest number of reports, but that breakdown is still in progress.
- Q. What is the number of indicated abuse and neglect cases, and how does that compare to numbers pre-COVID? This data has been requested. Hope to have data by the end of this week, and monthly by the end of the month moving forward.
- Update on completion of FY21 program plans – Derek Hobson
 - Most Spec and Adolescent Foster Care program plans have been reviewed by Clinical, Legal and Contracts. There were minor changes. Any plans with items that have a financial impact will be delayed until FY21.
 - Traditional and HMR program plans have also been reviewed.
 - The foster care plans that have been reviewed will be returned within a week to Rich Bobby and committee.
 - The ILO and TLP program plans will be returned to Kara Teeple and committee.
 - Q. When should the QRTP program plans with the recommended changes be expected? If Ashley has the information, Derek will reach out for a response.
- COVID-19 response: lessons learned and applications to future practice – Desiree Silva
 - Must review and prioritize staff roles and expectations due to relocation of staff to work remotely. Suggestions and recommendations on pros and cons of working remotely have been requested internally and received from both DCFS and POS.
 - Shouldn't assume family support starts at the Hotline. Looking to expand community programs, as well as expand and/or implement interventions associated with Family First. Need to also ensure most vulnerable populations are receiving appropriate and adequate services.
 - Opportunity to review what policies are antiquated and/or need to be streamlined. Committees should also have this conversation to make the department and system more effective.
- Revisit strategic priorities established prior to COVID-19 – Zack Schrantz, Trish Fox

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- Workforce ○ Sustainable rate methodology ○ YouthCare/Managed Care Transition ○ Resource development ○ Relationship credibility ○ Accountability of service delivery and services provided
 - Retreat planning in February included the above six priorities at the time. Public and private partners should continue to keep in mind what strategies need to be prioritized for future discussions.
 - If an in-person retreat can't be planned between July-September, a virtual platform may be considered.
- FY21 meeting schedule
 - Save-the-date invites will be sent to public and private participants.

Committee reports – 2:30-3:00

- COVID-19 Ad-Hoc (Zack Schrantz, Trish Fox)
 - Illinois work and response to COVID-19 was presented to national partners on May 13th.
 - Additional information was provided in the agenda items above.
- Foster Care (Rich Bobby, Lori Gray)
 - Established a workgroup of public and private agencies to review the whole system as it relates to foster care. Discussion: what requires in-person vs what can be done remotely. Led by Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz.
 - Discussed building capacity and resources due to anticipated intake surge. Should look at hiring and training necessary staff now vs later.
 - Reviewing supervised visitation process post-COVID-19.
 - Recommendations will be formalized.
- Front end/Intact (Hope Carbonaro, Kathy Grzelak)
 - Discussions include ensuring safety of children, families and staff. Trying to identify PPE resources and coordinate distribution, but they're limited.
 - Looking at pros and cons of remote learning and training.
 - Created subcommittee to review program plans by deadline next week.
- Residential/Transitional and Independence (Chris Cox, Lauren Williams)
 - Input on program plans was provided on a statewide call, but it needs to be brought back to center around the CWAC workgroup.
 - Plan efforts should be coordinated with Lauren Williams and/or Ashley Deckert.
- FAS (Melissa Riddle, Royce Kirkpatrick)
 - Information was provided as part of Royce's update in agenda item above.
- Well-being (Margaret Vimont, Kim Mann)
 - 1,700 youth surveys have been completed on well-being measures. Working on awareness efforts with immersion sites and clinical. Planning to use with predictive analytics work.
- Diversity and Inclusion (LaTasha Roberson, Gaylon Alcaraz)
 - Evaluating data to improve performance and outcomes.

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- Provided 20 recommendations with 70 corresponding strategies. Responses requested by 7/20/20. Details can be forwarded to Zach and Trish to distribute to interested parties.
- Hosting a virtual pride parade. Celebrations will be entire month of June. Information will be submitted to Stefanie so it can be distributed so it can be posted and available to all.

Next meeting: August 13, 2020 1:00 PM-3:30 PM. Location TBD.

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