
Child Welfare Advisory Committee
November 14, 2019 1 PM-3:30 PM
Minutes

In-Person: Trish Fox, Zack Schrantz, Kenny Martin-Ocasio, Renee Lehocky, Chris Cox, Andrea Durbin, Kara Teeple, Rich Bobby, Dan Kotowski, Melissa Ludington, Kathy Grzelak, Bill Franklin, Mary Ann Berg, Malia Arnett, Jason Keeler, Judy Griffeth, Raul Garza, Kimberly Casey, Stephen Budde, Brian Finley, Mary Beth Sheets, Anika Todd, Nichole Anyaso, Hillary Moore, Terry Carmichael, Eric Foster, Deb Kennedy, Kristine Herman, Mary Savage, Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz, Elke Hansen, Ruth Jajko, Deb McCarrel, Kacy Anderson, Tiffany Jones, Pat Ege

Public: Ana Espinosa

DCFS: Director Marc Smith, Jeremy Harvey, Therese Burton, Dagene Brown, Monico Whittington-Eskridge, Gaylon Alcaraz, Kim Mann, Stefanie Polacheck, Desi Silva, Darryl Johnson, Amanda Wolfman, Jassen Strokosch, Mary Nam, Kevin Walsh, Michelle Grove, Debra Dyer-Webster, Lori Gray, Hope Carbonaro,

Phone: Nancy Hughes-Moyer, Harriet Kirsch, Margaret Vimont, Nora Collins Mandeville, Detrick (One Hope), Marci White, Melissa Riddle, Elizabeth Richmond, Rachel Hoyt, Beverly Jones

Welcome and Introductions

- Approval of August Minutes- **Malia Arnett motioned, Chris Cox seconded, unanimous vote to approve.**
- Zack reviewed the Membership renewal/new member process and encouraged members whose terms are expiring to reapply if interested.

Directors Report-20 Minutes

Director Smith shared that DCFS is making organizational changes. DCFS is refocusing and expanding to ensure more connection with the work to drive change.

Desi Silva is serving as the head of operations with 3 reporting deputies, Child Protection, Intact and Permanency Services. Intact is a new deputy position DCFS is carving out because it is so critical to the organization.

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We have been utilizing regional Intact leadership meetings with DCFS and POS. Invites have been sent - these are focused on Intact. This process helps ensure that solutions are informed by the practice experience of the field. The next meeting is November 25th.

Intact will be headed by Hope Carbonaro. There will be 2 support positions in administration which will be supported by two teams. This will total 10 people to assist and support POS agencies in reviews, referral reviews, and the case closure process. Hope will be supported by RA Lori Welcher-Evans who will be leading and serving in Cook/Northern, and an additional RA will be designated to serve Central and Southern.

Lori Gray is building a team focused on Placement. The existing RA's are focused on Child Protection Investigations. Lori will have RA's appointed in each region focused on permanency.

Tierney Stutz is leading Child Protection. The RAs in Child Protection are Marnita Martin-Harris in Cook, Rhonda Laye (Northern), Maria Miller (Central) and Robert Schmink (Southern). DCFS is adding a second RA in Cook County.

DCFS items-40 Minutes

- Secure transport- Amanda Wolfman
 - DCFS entered into a stipulation in relation to BH. This will come out to all POS management and DCFS staff along with all contracted providers. DCFS will be releasing a policy statement on the use of soft restraints, but only under a court order or psychiatrists order. This will include a written recommendation of the Chief Deputy Director of Clinical.
- Family First Update - Debra Dyer-Webster
 - DCFS should have our draft plan completed this month for final approval, DCFS then will submit the draft plan to HHS to get feedback on that draft. 6 Jurisdictions have already submitted plans, AK, DC, KS, KT, NE, UT,
 - VA also submitted a draft plan in November 2019
 - Only 1 plan has been approved that is DC
 - States can receive evaluation and training funding through October 2021. DCFS is pursuing training \$ for DCFS/POS on all interventions
 - New draft amendment has been filed, allows for 50% well supported, and 50% supported. This allows for a larger pool of claimable services. \$500M has been set aside amongst all states (Illinois portion approximately 17.9M) to support rollout.
 - Q: Where is foster care represented in the committees? A: Under the Residential and congregate care group
- Illini Care/Managed Care - Anika Todd
 - Date for MCO transition was moved to 2/1/2020. DCFS/HFS/Illinicare are still diligently working towards transition.
 - YouthCare is starting with a soft launch. All of our youth will be included in the soft launch.
 - YouthCare is focusing on a population of 3,700 youth – including BMN, current psych hospitalizations, medically complex, DJJ, spec, youth with disabilities, and youth with nursing referrals.

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- 130 care coordinators are working on this project. Children are currently assigned to care coordinators. It is possible that one residential program or agency may have 10-12 coordinators. YouthCare is open to streamlining this effort.
 - Discussion highlighted SER as a concrete example of something that SACWIS access could help streamline. Reducing Duplicate entry by already overloaded DCFS and POS caseworkers is important.
 - Q: Of the kids that you are looking at how has the review process going? A: We are beginning the process; we have been pulling and focusing on things like discharge planning for BMN youth.
 - Q: Heard from a FP, they were uncomfortable giving information about the youth in their custody. A: We are sharing with them to contact the CW. We are emailing the Director Smith letter. Typically, that is helpful to get needed information.
 - Q: Are you going to get to the goal for enrollment? A: the soft launch is designed to give us the time needed to engage and enroll.
 - Q: When will CEO's get information? A: Information will go out hopefully by end of this week. We are also working with Deb Kennedy to present information around the state. This will also rollout through additional community meetings. Information is going to all CEO's, and attempt to push it out via email to all assigned workers. This includes the list of questions that the Illinicare staff will be asking.
- Foster care recruitment – Dagen Brown
 - Draft recruitment plan has been distributed to some POS, and feedback has been received. If you want a chance to give feedback you can contact Dagen Brown.
 - Goal is to implement this starting January 2020.
 - Many questions were about monitoring and clarity about who to submit agency plans to. This is trying to be addressed through an additional document to help provide guidance to providers to increase and focus on targeting.
 - Additional questions or concerns to Daryl and Dagen
- Financial Update – Royce Kirkpatrick
 - Request to look into bi-lingual pay for Intact, changes will roll out in FY 20, will mirror foster care contracts.
 - For agencies looking to increase Intact teams – DCFS will be introducing a contract amendment. This is looking at requests to expand service areas and expanding capacity to serve a larger number of families than originally contracted for. Questions can be addressed directly to Hope Carbonaro
 - Looking to address workforce and rates, first meeting on this was on October 29th. There was the beginning conversation about the actual models used. This will include review of caseloads, models for standardized foster care, IGH and will be provided to the taskforce.
 - Membership includes POS representatives, 8 Legislators, Public Partners, there are still some appointments pending, DCEO, ICJIA, AFSCME & Irving. The schedule will be posted after the legislative schedule is established, so soon
 - Cash flow- DCFS highlights the need to pay close attention as we are balancing in the new family first environment. Will keep FAS fully engaged. Fingerprinting/background of staff is one key issue, as is eligibility, and HMR licensing.
- Resource Development Update - Steve Minter

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- DCFS is focused on increasing the number of available beds in residential and SPEC. This includes laying out a plan to increase the ability to move youth through the various levels of care
- Regional Workgroups- Hope Carbonaro
 - We are using these groups to get and improve use of CERAP. Each region will have at least monthly calls and ¼ in person meetings to facilitate better conversations and feedback.
- POS Leadership meetings- Hope Carbonaro
 - Desi already mentioned these. There have been 3 meetings to date, next meeting is in November. This included information on crisis response, building capacity, increase communication between DCFS/POS.
 - Joint initiation is a key topic, if there is an SOR on an open intact case. The investigator and the intact worker will establish the case together. This was tested in immersion sites. And is now expanding statewide. The purpose is to increase coordination of care. Rollout targeted for January 2020.

LGBTQ- 30 Minutes

- Round table background on origin and recommendations- Renee Lehocky & Kenneth
 - Matching LGBTQ youth to affirming homes.
 - Creating and tracking of SOGIE and LGBTQ data.
 - Met with DCFS Director in 2017.
 - Outcome was creating training for the state, Roundtable proposed recommendations of staff training, foster parent training, foundation integrated training.
 - Implemented statewide survey executed by ICOY. Large number of providers were at that time unaware of training.
 - Roundtable drafted a FAQ to help support rollout.
 - Roundtable promotes the expansion of DCFS staff in roles similar to Gaylon Alcaraz.
 - Members shared experiences and challenges in the field
- Establishing Diversity and Inclusion CWAC sub-committee – Gaylon Alcaraz & LaTasha Roberson – interested members or recommendations can be made to Galylon or LaTasha.
- Update on progress and changes to date – Gaylon Alcaraz
 - There have been modifications to forms, SACWIS, and procedures to be more LGBTQ and SOGIE informed.
 - There were included in presentations of LGBTQ information by DCFS Lead Gaylon Alcaraz
- Training update - Monico Whittington-Eskridge
 - 579 staff statewide still need to complete the training. On target for December completion. Discussion followed.

Training – 10 Minutes Monico Whittington-Eskridge

- Safety Reboot
 - 1,079 staff remaining to be trained. 502 still need to enroll in training.

Committee reports – 30 Minutes

- SOC
 - Primary focus on Managed care roll out.
- Workforce/Immersion

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- Tabled for February. Suggestion to make this a primary topic updating CWAC on the progress to date on recommendations.
 - Foster care
 - PRO and reducing maltreatment in foster care are top priorities for committee.
- Racial Equity Practice – Tabled for February with 20-30 min. allowed.

Next meeting: February 13, 2019 1-3:30PM

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