

Meeting Minutes  
CWAC Foster Care Recruitment Workgroup  
January 19, 2021 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
Via WebEx / Conference line only  
**APPROVED**

**Participants (DCFS, POS):** Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz, Amanda Lid, Ashley Deckert, Barbara Crandall, Carly Jones, Carolyn Thomas, Darryl Johnson, Denise Rogers, Gayla Jackson, Iris Williams, Katie Friend, Ann Pastula for Kelley Lumpkin, Kelly King, Kiara Cooper, Krista Teckenbrock, Kyla Sutton, Kymberle West, Malia Arnett, Mariah Brandon, Olivia DelGuidice, Rachel Ketchum, Ray Rezek, Terese Burton, Valerie Darby, Victoria Hays, Yesenia Perez

**Meeting Objective:** Provide updates related to FY21 objectives and ongoing initiatives.

**Discussion:**

Nancy requested a motion to approve the December 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Barbara Crandall motioned to approve. Rachel Ketchum seconded. No objections. Motion passed.

R&R Training initiative – About 50+ people have completed the training to date. An updated schedule has been posted on the D-Net with the first class of 2021 in February. Fewer technical glitches have been reported recently vs at the start. Also putting together a confidential training for FPs re: social media due to several questions and concerns. Scheduled to start in mid-summer. Updates will be provided as we further approach that time. Questions/comments/concerns from the group:

- Q. Has the recruitment information been helpful even due to the pandemic? Has recruitment been affected? Feedback from a non-FP about the training is that it's good information about the licensing process, resources and what to expect. No response received specific to recruitment during the pandemic.
- Q. What options do FPs have if they don't have access to a computer, a phone with the proper capabilities, and/or an internet connection? They can go to a field office or a public library. Internet access and/or issues are especially evident in rural areas. Brief discussion re: assigning this responsibility to the agency, including that the alternative would be to not train and license.

HMR Licensing initiative – The workgroup is waiting on the forms to move through OCFP, but an update on this is expected soon. Until this process is complete, licensing teams should continue using the old forms. The Department and workgroup are working on rolling out an orientation training for unlicensed HMR. The group is also still trying to make the “Birdell Report” available to POS. Questions/comments/concerns from the group:

- Q. Are there numbers available re: HMR not licensed? Yes, the “Birdell Report” includes this information. APT works with POS on those homes. Since federal funding, Family First and the PIP are tied to licensing these homes, working diligently with a goal to license 75%.
- Q. How many HMR are licensed? Some agencies are at 100% licensed while others are lower. Brief discussion re: need for statewide HMR compliance information due to increasing numbers, especially during COVID; previously received monthly updates from APT. Ashley will follow-up on this.
- POS agencies have seen an influx of HMR cases, and some are having difficulty licensing them. Feedback from agencies that have been successful (*at 100%*) is recommended. Anticipate that agencies with a high percentage of licensed HMR have a low number of HMR cases vs agencies with a low percentage of licensed HMR. Would like to hear/see reports from agencies downstate/outside Chicago with successful implementation.

Family Finding Committee – The group met in early January and is working on recommendations and associated rationale. This includes a systemic culture shift re: what makes a good parent, overcoming implicit bias; analyze the current system in place, like diligent search; need for a dedicated person per agency per region to work on the collaborative process; create a comprehensive database for QRTP and GH staff to have information on family findings; review the different models, like CASA TX. Meeting with leadership next week re: systemic culture shift. Planning to finalize recommendations by February for the next full CWAC meeting.

Resource regional document for FPs – No update provided.

Capacity building for FHs – No update provided.

New business items – See *action items* below.

No public comments made.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

**Action items:**

- Update re: confidential training for FPs expected in April.
- Nancy will email Ashley re: request from POS for statewide HMR compliance information so she can follow-up.
- CH+A will pull together information to share with this group re: HMR licensing process and structure, including successes and challenges.
- Add item to next meeting's agenda: Statewide Advertisement/Campaign Plan for FP Recruitment.

**Next Meeting:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 am via WebEx.

**Future Meetings – Quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month:**

- July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021