

CWAC HIGH END COMMITTEE Minutes

DATE: January 26, 2022

TIME: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Web-Ex

Phone: 312-535-8110, Code: 1331048852

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Minutes were approved without changes.
- **The Powers Project Presentation -** DCFS Human Trafficking Prevention Manager Vicki Davis Jones presented information on the Powers Project. The Powers Project is the company DCFS contracted with to provide Sex Trafficking Prevention training to DCFS and POS providers. Training will be available at no charge to all POS residential staff (Group home, Residential, ILO, TLP). Class size is a preferred minimum of 10 and can be done in-person or virtually. The Powers Project will reach out to the providers to schedule trainings.

Meiko Taylor the Powers Project CEO was introduced. She is a former Illinois ward that saw the need for and developed this training while working in a group home in California. The training will be for POS staff, is two hours long, and will be comprised of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) 101, human trafficking (labor, sex). Demand/Drivers of human trafficking, risk factors for youth, grooming, signs youth might be engaging in sex work. How to engage youth in a trauma informed way when they confide about being trafficked. The Powers Project will engage providers in an initial pre-training meeting to learn about the organizations client's population and tailor training accordingly.

- **Family First:** Angela Hassell reminded providers that 906's is the key trigger for funding and assessment. Delays in entering/providing 906's make it hard to complete the court mandated 30-day assessment on time. Angela ask that all POS agencies identify back-ups for 906's entry, so that 906 entries do not lag due to staffing complication/complexities.

Elliot Watson will be responsible for sending out UPA's as of January 2022. If a provider is aware of a youth admission and has not received the UPA, they should contact Angela Hassell.

Angela wanted to remind everyone that the D-Net contains resources regarding Family First. You may access these resources by selecting Division of Child Services>ILO/TLP Residential Monitoring> Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).



Youth with a QRTP admission date of 10/1/21 would reach their max 6 months stay and may need a director's waiver.

- **ER - Hospital Room Coverage:** Mitchell Sandy ask the provider to share their experiences with psychiatric hospital lock outs. Youth go into E.R. needing psychiatric admission, no psychiatric hospital will admit them. The youth are then stuck in the E.R. till the episode is over and discharged back to the residential program. This creates a staffing issue for the residential agency, as some hospitals require 24/7 staffing supervision.

Rich expressed his concerns that no psychiatric hospital is admitting DCFS youth, this lack of psychiatric beds/placements has led E.R. providers to stabilize the youth and then discharging them ASAP. He shared that Little City has worked with several hospitals and some have been flexible with staffing, while others have insisted on 24/7 staffing. Other provider shared similar experiences, with some providers stating that the hospital would not allow their POS staff in the E.R. Experiences seem to vary, however personal relationships with the E.R providers seem to help mitigate the experience.

Some providers expressed concerned about what would happen if the youth in care has an episode while in the hospital. What should the POS staff do, if anything? Provider also expressed frustration in a perceived double standard they see with the hospital requiring them to staff the E.R. but allowing SASS to do remote evaluations.

The POS providers referenced their concerns about YouthCare's responsibility to deliver the robust array of services they said they could provide.

- **Independent Assessment Denials:** There have been several QRTP independent assessment denials, the department is conducting an internal review process of the denials to identify issues within the referral process that may have led to the denials. Matthew Skarbek reiterated that having as much information as possible helps the independent assessor understand the complexity of the case.
- **Department Updates**
 - Program Plans: Program plans are being reviewed and will hopefully be provided for review in the coming month.
 - Phase 2 Youth: DCFS leadership and its case management partners have renewed efforts to find placements for phase 2 youth. DCFS would like to remind providers that every resource possible will be given to help support such an endeavor.

Next Meeting March 23, 2022