

**Child Welfare Advisory Committee  
November 19, 2021 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM  
MINUTES**

**Attendees**

**Members:** Beverly Jones, Zack Schrantz, Andrea Durbin, Anthony Riordan, Audrey Pennington, Christopher Cox, Dan Kotowski, Elena Thompson, Harriet Kersh, Jason Keeler, Jere Murray, Kara Teeple, Kathy Grzelak, Keely Giles, LaTasha Roberson-Guifarro, Mary Savage, Monica Badiano, Patricia Ege, Prestina Singleton, Rich Bobby, Tanya Gassenheimer, Toleda Hart

**Co-Chair Welcome and Report (Zach Schrantz, Beverly Jones)**

- Member Roll Call
- Approval of June Minutes and FY22 CWAC Meeting Schedule (VOTE) – Zack Schrantz motioned for approval of the items as submitted, Dan Kotowski motion, Christopher Cox second, no objections. Motion passed.
- Co-chair report – Members and participants were reminded of CWAC membership recruitment and recommendation process. It was requested the CWAC Membership information is circulated to identify new members. Nine representatives expired each year. It's a two-term position but exemptions may apply by the DCFS Director. Members can identify new persons that would be good as members. The Co-chairs form a nominee committee to review applications in December 2021 and recommend to Director for approval. Great Diversity is expected moving forward. Also, alert group members of changes in Co-Chairs of committees due to expired dates or others making room for new members. In addition, welcomes new Co-Chairs for the following areas: Desiree Silva, Front End Committee; Mitchell Sandy, High End Committee; Stephany Barish and Ashley Deckert, System of Care Committee; Chris Cox will be new Co-Chair of CWAC Committee filling Zack Schrantz vacancy. Finally, thanked everyone for great spirit with CWAC.

**Director's Report**

- Acknowledged Zack for great role, improvements and changes. Thanks, and announces retirement for: Royce Kilpatrick and Dereck Hobson at the end of the year.
- Think of what is next in our system and will be next leader in child welfare. Groom and develop new members from new generations.
  - This is a growth period for DCFS. The Resource Development Plan is to increase the number of resources for children and parents we serve.
  - The Family First Federal Plan approved for new opportunity for prevention work.
  - Over 200 participants from private and public sector worked on the planning. Including community providers.
  - Reach out to UIC, Haven and NW to review on resources development analysis
  - Calls for proposals minimum every month for specific areas of opportunity growth.

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- The 1<sup>st</sup> one is Shelter Care and Emergency Care by end of next week.
  - Asking “what opportunity is available for you and your business”? Willing to invest as well.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is service for Autism kids. A) for Residential QRTP Bids and B) for treatment level specialize high end foster care home. Shooting for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 proposal.
- Expect another group of resources no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
  - Will be working with Youth in Care and Community Clinical Resources.
  - Think of new process to assist child welfare will use every level of funding.
  - Not setting a number limit for resources; will review and give feedback.
  - DCFS has work with Governor and Illinois Legislature growth on contracts/business.
  - There is a Hiring Crisis. Currently there are 100 kids who sign up for Interim programs right from the universities.
  - Questions:
    - Andrea Durbin: Is DCFS open to collaborative/integrated proposal? A: Yes
    - Monico Whittington: Clarify it’s a call for proposal not formal RFP. Can include state, private and corporate entities? A: Very open but follow all procedures.
    - AApenington: Focus not only on child but the family too for resources and support to older youth.
    - Dan Kotowski: Can proposal be issue before end of year and not wait till next fiscal year?  
A: Work on both, but not saying will sign off on all proposals. But every proposal will be looked independently.

### “Key Issues” Agenda Items

#### Work Force – George Vennikandam

- Discuss issued Policy Guide for eligibility credentials only good for a year and to make them permanent rule. Also, need to focus on emergency child Welfare, expected to file by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and Child care Institutions working on it.
- Q: Latasha Robertson- 17 recommendations proposals submitted July 21, 2021 and not heard of outcome? Would like fidelity to the process.
- A: Jassen Strokosch – Rate Setting group still in process.

#### Racial Equity – Dagene Brown

- Presentation for recommendations.
- Q: Public needs different route for VCT not everyone has access to Dnet.  
A: Call the VTC to access. Agency must follow up after training is done and rate what is the impact of the trainings.

#### Rate Setting – Royce Kilpatrick

- Recognize the work force challenge and reduce the disparity on private and public sectors.
- Better longevity at 90% approved by the Director.
- Rule 434 has been discussed and have information to Director by November 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Congregate Care Recommendations are still under review and will start first on Foster Care.

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### **Strategic Planning – Tracey King**

- Result of 6/2021 Survey will focus on four Topics: Maltreatment, Preventive Services, Resources Services and Achieve Permanency without much delay.
- Q: Zack- What is the time frame? A: There is no time frame just in the future.

### **Family First – Dereck Hobson**

- Family First statue took over 20 years to achieve. On September 21,2021 the Prevention Plan was approved.
- Permanency to start training on February 2022

Dr. K. Mann

- IT has given electronic support through CANTS when forms are filled by caseworkers for additional services.
- Prevention Plan is under DCFS website.

M. ESDKRIDGE

- VTC videos walk through key components of Motivational Interviewing.
- Training already started on November 1<sup>st</sup> to January 2022, Permanency will follow.

CWAC providers give more input due to closing time.

**Next meeting: *Tentatively February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3:30 pm***

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