

CWAC Minutes
10-8-08

Members Present

Tom Finnegan
Mary Hollie
George Jones
Marty Sinnott
Zach Schrantz
Mark Nufer
Marg Berglind
Nancy Ronquillo
Jim Jones
Mark Bouie
Richard Calica

DCFS Staff Present

Erwin McEwen
Eugene Grandberry
Kara Teeple
Thu Vo
Miller Anderson
Judy Zaleski
Doug Washington
Michele Rosenberg
Bridgette Glickman

Via Teleconference

Tricia Fox
Mary Shabazian
Karen Rousey
Dave McClure
Sheila Jones
Steve Steindhart

Guest

Susan Cowen
Marcia Weflen

Directors Report/ Budget Update

- Legislation passed in both the House and Senate, sent over to the Governor and has restored the about 20 million
- Restorations that did impact the DCFS personnel service program does not impact POS directly
- The challenge is that is still a \$25 million 3% reserve there that cannot be dealt with through the legislators at all
- The President signed HR 6893
 - The biggest impact is that this allows us to claim reimbursement for youth 18 to 21
 - Do not have to worry about youth currently in our subsidized guardianship category
 - Training is phased in - we will see some small advantages in training around a higher rate of reimbursement
- The real issue is that the 25 million may not help on a service level because of the 52 million that we had to use, but it will start to fill that gap. We have been closing our fiscal years borrowing from the next fiscal year for a long time.
- We are looking at some things around relative licensure: licensing standards, policy and procedure around waiver of safety standards, waiver of non-safety standards, up to and including requiring relatives to be fingerprinted, and some of the other core requirements if they are going to keep the youth within 30 days of placement.
- POS agencies find it really difficult to put together an advocacy agenda when they are not quite sure what is going on in terms of building the budget. The extent to which POS can be involved and know in advance will help them.

Subcommittee Reports

Public Awareness

- Fabulous news of Bush signing the HR 6893
- Tribune is interested in speaking with a family or foster child who can put a face on why this is great for children enrolling across the country
- Committee has agreed that we will use the older adolescent concern and particular cohorts groups in the system of care as a year around focal point - another place to say, older adolescents both need care and can do well with the right kind of response from community
- Encouraging agencies to write letters to the editors
- Will take into the work plan messaging on the post permanency projects
- The point of the committee is to find where the public and private sector speak together on issues
- Members encouraged to go to the theatre production Strong Connections sponsored by Adoptions Unlimited - powerful production put on by five alumni from the child welfare system and one post adoption young man related their stories of experiences in child welfare that were very emotional, very honest, very real

Infrastructure/ Performance Based Contracting

- The reunification recommendations mentioned last time were completed and the committee has sent those to DCFS
- Case assignment procedures are going to be the areas that DCFS wants to look at focusing on first - concerns in that area come up in the number of venues and committees and things they want to improve in terms of how quickly case assignments is happening and that there were some pretty strong recommendations about that in the reunification recommendations
- Had a presentation on the trauma training
 - Overall feedback from the infrastructure committee was that the training looks good, that it was very inline with good practice and that it made a lot of sense to continue the training
 - Some concern that the six additional days would be challenging
 - The private agencies really like the idea of doing those trainings through the learning collaborative - there could be as many as 32 collaboratives and no more than 45 minute drive for any worker to get to the trainings
- A group is working on the formula for referral opportunities for traditional and relative foster care - trying to look at a formula that would take into account agency's overall performance in terms of permanency, stability, the protocols, and be able to reward those agencies that are performing strongly across the board
- There are two management reports that were developed by APT to stock and show agencies how their teams are doing on the protocol performance
- The SPEC group continues to meet - looking at coming up with one tool that would review SPEC performance and will be sharing that with infrastructure in the future
- The Federal Review is set for August of '09 and that is going to be a standing item on the infrastructure agenda in terms of preparation

SACWIS

- Discussion regarding limiting access to SACWIS would be taking a step back from allowing agency workers to access SACWIS from their own home PC which has been a nice help for people when they finish up a visit, go home, and enter it through a secure VPN
 - Concerns about dual employment, ethical issues, confidentiality, and tracking
 - Not realistic for POS to provide laptops, PCs to every caseworker
 - POS has suggestions of ways to make it more secure to satisfy the OIG concerns
 - Double billing is not a pervasive issue, but having workers have access to being able to do their work from home is going to be the way of the future

In-Home/Front End Services

- The case opening and assignment protocol was submitted as a draft by the Division of Child Protection through the Office of Child and Family Services
- Issue with "early responses" program out of investigations

- Comprehensive in-tact data collection and outcomes to clarify in-tact family services
- New workgroup to work on redesign of the In-tact Family Program
- Lydia Home's Safe Families Program gave a presentation and overview
- Trying to move all the system support type functions under one entity, those functions that support both public and private - Intact moved to Monitoring; case assignment moved to DCP; moved the Child Death Review Teams to quality assurance

Training

- Discussed roll out of the Trauma Informed Practice initiative
- Discussed Statewide Provider Database as a service delivery tool
- Discussed the 141 training sites that are available within the 32 Learning Collaboratives and explained the roll out of the initiatives and how that would take place
 - Getting hundreds of registrations per hour since that information went out
 - Trying to confirm people into the first of the roll out which will be explaining the Collaboratives
- Rolling out Psychological 1st Aid Training of Trainers
- Standing items on the agenda - Foundation training and Foster Caregiver training
 - Complaints about Foundation Training time and distance for POS workers
 - Suggestion that Training do more advertising and marketing of the CDs on the in-service module for caregiver training
- Discussed delivering foundation training, pre-graduation, in BSW programs with 38 social work programs – issue is funding; POS working on a formal proposal

Comprehensive High End Treatment

- Data Test Subgroup looking at Ohio Scales
- Looking at the Residential Discharge Protocol roll out
 - Some glitches: staffing schedule issues in terms of residential providers getting us their schedule to their quarterly staffing so that we could put them on our calendar; getting all providers access to the VPN
- PRN, Psychiatric Residential Network, needs consensus for best practice – issues about who can prescribe meds
- Matching piece is an ongoing topic
- Making sure that providers know they can get on ARTOS system and look at their performance
- Performance Based Contracting - the department has prepared some frequently asked questions to respond to questions that providers have had about implementation

Finance and Administration

- First wave of reports from the department on Performance Based Contracting reconciliation - some glitches in the systems had mostly to do with crossing over the fiscal year which caused some payments to be made to providers that are now being taken back
- Medicaid billing systems have now been opened back up to providers
- Discussion about budget cuts and agency needs for federal funding information so that they can get audits done
- Mental Health Bill (\$39 billion) – could increase availability to bill more for mental health clients and better quality care
- RSAs can be backed out – significant achievement regarding Medicaid Fee for Service

Older Adolescents/ILO

- Discussed budget ramifications and really emphasized the need to advocate on behalf of child welfare
- Focused on matching - the emphasis to make sure that our youth visit post placement opportunities except when that youth is positively entrenched in the community and it does not make sense to remove them to visit another place that's geographically different
- Data text group is up and running
- Had skill focus groups where DCFS used the State Youth Advisory Board and Alumni Board to get feedback from the youth so they can move forward and plan more effectively
- Youth Summits were a very big success this year. The youth are so involved, and it is a wonderful experience. This was the third year, by far the best organized, most well attended, and it was a very nice public private partnership.
 - Cook County, over 350 youth participated with appropriate number of staff to supervise and also be engaged.
 - Northern region had 150
- Involved some of the data text folks from residential to participate with the TLP providers

Education

- Still deciding on the area of focus
- Committee to looking at previous recommendations and the work that has been done so far

Other Business

- Mark Bouie new CWAC Member
- Working on Division of Support Services