

Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
11-28-07

Members Present

Arlene Happach
Tom Finnegan
Nancy Ronquillo
Mark Nufer
Gary Leofanti
Marty Sinnott
John Schnier
Yvonne Zehr
Terry Solomon
Mary Shabazian
Richard Calica

Via Teleconference

Roberta Bell
Keith Langston
Margaret Berglind
Sheila Jones
Doug Washington
Mary Debose
Mary Hollie
Dixie Peterson
Mercedes Ball
Steve Steinhart
Lora McCurdy
Debra Dyer
Ronald Davis

DCFS Staff Present

Denice Murray
George Vennikandam
Velma Williams
Judy Zaleski
Bridgette Glickman

Guest

Alan Moris

Call to Order

Director's Report/Update

- Post Adoption
 - Contracts have gone out; initiative implemented relative to 13-16 year olds; found some agencies are still not Medicaid certified; looking for other avenues to sustain and increase funding
- QIC Demonstration Contracts
 - Contracts have gone out; agencies cannot change contracts during this pilot period
 - Other states involved in the pilot are very impressed by the Illinois public/private partnership

Subcommittee Reports

Public Awareness (Handout)

- POS/Public Messaging
- Article in Tribune generated letter from DCFS and CEOs being published
- NY Times series of articles on foster care tragedies
- Developing messaging points on older adolescents
- Adoption articles in the Tribune re: open adoption; CWAC will not offer a statement/position at this time; discussion speaks to the complexity of the overall issue

Infrastructure/Performance Based Contracting

- HMR Licensing - 2500 unlicensed homes
- Internal workgroup to track, monitor, support private agencies
- Downstate challenged with school placement rule; foster home recruitment needed in 20 "hot spots"
- Agencies who bypass case assignment rules will be penalized; after 15 points will be placed on hold if they do not have legitimate reasons for the placements
- Placements are farther away when agencies bypass the case assignment rule
- Difference in quarterly and yearly measurements may effect permanency and stability
- Website more user friendly

SACWIS

- Next release will be December 17, 2007 – completed product, on target
- Second release scheduled for January 2008
- Bridge ready to utilize
- VPN utilization going well - but to increase will cost more
- Committee discussing future upgrades

Front-End/Intact Family (Handout)

- Intact Data report is a monthly snapshot; DCFS to commit to sharing information on a consistent basis
- Practice Issues: CAPU follow-up, Caseload levels, Six-Month Service limitation, HB616 Protection Orders, Monitoring Through SACWIS
- Will extend an invitation to the OIG's office to participate on the committee

Training

- Next meeting scheduled for 12-6-07

Comprehensive High End Treatment (Handouts)

- Two indicators in Performance Based Contracting for Residential
- Continue to Work with Chapin Hall and Northwestern
- Comprehensive Protocol Training
- Sustaining a positive discharge rate
- DCFS reviewing web-based billing system
- Comptroller issued a "vendor alert" regarding future delays

Finance and Administration

- Need to replenish SACWIS equipment
- Performance Base Contracting – contracts not adjustable; will educate provider agencies; focus on financial ramifications; need to ensure that FY '09 contract rates reflect inflation
- Pilot results of Medicaid billing transition
- Penalty structures are around intake, mismatches

Older Adolescents/ILO

- Involved in Performance Base Contracting
- Working closely with Residential particularly with Transition Protocol
- Phase III of the "Get Goaled" program, with website development
- Working on Risk Adjustment to present to QIC Steering Committee

Education

- Working on recommendations from various subgroups
- New Subgroup with ACLU participation – dealing with various concerns, i.e. surrogate parents, school transitions, and surveys of residential treatment
- Trauma sensitive practices in schools
- Development of functional Education passport – CPS and ISBE involved
- Educational issues as they relate to Performance Base Contracting – i.e. residential facilities not in control of schools on their grounds

Other Business

- Background Clearances (Handout)
 - Agencies should call Virginia York or Denice Murray when there are delays
- Children placed out of state
 - Requesting review of profiles and information on those youth
- Senate Bill 291 re: Delinquency
 - Becomes Law June 2008
 - Debra Dyer and Dixie Peterson will co-chair a committee to address this issue (Agencies volunteered for Committee: CCA, ICOA, LSSI, Kid's Hope, African American Family Commission, Public Guardian, Children's Home & Aid)
 - Concerns about dealing with youth/wards released from DOC – how will DCFS respond?
- Ethics Training Acknowledgement Distributed to Members
- Question - How will CWAC respond to Legislative issues?

Meeting adjourned