

Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES
March 17, 2006
160 N. LaSalle, Room N505, Chicago
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(Approved at 4/21/06 meeting)

Members Present	Members Absent	DCFS Staff	Guests
Donsetta Blakely Gladys Boyd Raymond Chasteen Claudia Davis Ruth Dominguez Sylvia Flory Cecil Garner Ruth Jajko Jim Jones Vicky Kline Andrea Miller Leanne Montgomery Ramon Nieves Heather Schumacher Uli Senz Adrienne Welenc Mary White Geraldine Wilson	Andre Robinson Antionette Walker	Mercedes Ball Michael Byrd Gwenn Eyer Ray Gates Bridgette Glickman Vanessa James Mary Kay Jerit Jean Maher Terry McGlothlin Bernadette McCarthy Rod Mulford Marsha Northrup Sari Rowitz Velma Williams, Deputy Dir. Michael Wonderlich	Faye Edwards Emely Nunez Leonie Smalling Jerry Welenc

Hospitality

Donsetta Blakely welcomed Council members and guests and announced that the meeting would be recorded to assure accurate minutes.

Welcome and Introductions

- Adrienne called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. She welcomed Council members and guests, asking each to introduce himself/herself to the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from 01/20/06 Meeting

Adrienne asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the January 20th meeting. There were none.

MOTION: Ruth Jajko moved to accept the 01/20/06 minutes. Andrea Miller seconded. The motion carried and the minutes were accepted as written.

FINAL REPORTS TO THE DIRECTOR

There was no administrative business report, nor were there any final reports to the Director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adolescent Issues - Andrea Miller

Andrea revised her previous report, stating that Michael Byrd clarified that the committee report has not yet gone to the Governor. The report has been given to Rep. Hunter's assistant and her assistant's responsibility is to compile the audio versions of the hearings, adding them to the final report. There appears to be flexibility in the December 31st deadline, and we have been assured that we will be copied once the report is formalized. Adrienne indicated that she might have the opportunity to follow up on this issue.

Archives - Ray Chasteen

Ray Chasteen had no report.

Youth Advisory Board Liaisons - Andrea Miller

Andrea stated that she missed the last YAB meeting and that she still has not received meeting notices from the board. Adrienne is going to follow up.

IAAC/YAB/CWAC/CIAC/CFS Reports - Bridgette Glickman

Bridgette provided a summary report that is included in the minutes. Please see the AAC/YAB/CWAC attachment.

System of Care/SASS - Uli Senz

Uli stated that there is still a lot of technical work taking place. There is considerable pressure by state agencies on providers to encourage those clients not already on Medicaid to file an application for services. He indicated that the state wants to literally refuse reimbursement to mental health providers who fail to help clients complete that application since the interim "presumptive eligibility", which is established by completing an application, will allow the state to receive federal funds.

Update on Legislative Efforts - Jerry Welenc

Jerry stated that 88 of 118 House members have signed their support for HB4543. Ruth Jajko stated that the Governor did not include the 3% cost of living increase in his budget. She stated that it is really important for people to contact their legislators to ask them to take it to their caucus to force the discussion and move this forward. Sylvia Flory stated that legislators really respond best to handwritten notes. The legislative session is set to adjourn April 7th, so people were encouraged to really take immediate action at the grassroots level. Members were cautioned to represent themselves as citizens - not as members of this council.

Foster Parent Support Specialists - Vicky Kline

Vicky stated that she Emailed Larry Chasey and he replied that there will be no changes in the 2007 contracts. She stated that contracts for all new FPSS's are being written as Independent Contractors. Adrienne stated that she has been working with Larry and Jose Candelas on a couple of problems they had in Cook County.

PA92-0295 School Records Act - Ray Chasteen

Ray Chasteen and Mary White met by phone and compiled a final report. Ray did not bring it to the meeting, but will provide it to Terry for distribution with the minutes.

Policy Committee

Heather Schumacher, Ramon Nieves and Leanne Montgomery have joined the Policy Committee. The minutes from the March 8th meeting were included in the packet. The following issues were addressed at the March 8th meeting:

*The 2007 score sheet has been revised to reflect current programs and terminology.

*The committee made recommendations to change policy to allow members to be reappointed to the Council after one year off.

*They addressed the issue of requiring multiple implementation plans from agencies/regions with multiple offices and determined that the Council will steer the decision regarding which satellite office will be monitored, reviewing staff from the designated office.

*The Policy Committee will meet again on May 18th. They will review and update all three sets of agency review questions.

*Following the new policy for developing corrective action plans, all completed corrective plans will be sent to the Council for final approval.

Jerry Welenc reminded Council members that when they go to agencies for reviews they need to dress professionally, arrive on time, and demonstrate professionalism throughout the process.

PRESENTATIONS

Psychiatric Clinic - Dr Soo Mi Lee

This program is available to new children identified through Integrated Assessment as having urgent psychiatric needs. For those with identified issues, workers will recommend that they see a psychiatrist. The caseworker will call The Bridge Clinic at La Rabida hospital. The clinic will see them, get them stabilized (crisis stabilization), provide medications, therapy, etc., and then they will be linked to local providers. The clinic is currently located in Cook County, but looks to expand throughout the state in the future. Their clinical days are currently Mondays and Thursdays. If one agency has three kids that need to be seen, they will try to cluster appointments to allow caseworkers to take several children at once. The clinic has availability for 10-20 children per month. They can realistically see 30 kids per month, with follow-up to an additional 30 kids per month. The recognition is that it might be six months to a year to find a long-term psychiatrist. Jose Lopez functions as a research coordinator to follow up on demographics, etc. and the clinic has staff to do follow-up studies. SWFCAC members may call 312/328-2833 to speak with Jose at his DCFS office at IIT. Dr. Lee stated that she is available for side consults, as well, regarding psychiatric issues, medication, etc.

Deputy Director Velma Williams stated that if there is enough need/demand, the program would be expanded. She stated that if foster parents identify service needs for children and youth in care they should call the Clinical Division for resource identification.

Report on the Adoption Reform Act - Christina Schneider

Christina stated that staff had to rewrite Rule 401, the rule that licenses adoption agencies in Illinois. Right after the Adoption Reform law was passed in August 2005, the Department instituted an emergency Rule 401. The final rule was accepted and implemented in February. Staff has been working with agencies around the state to make sure that they are aware of all the changes.

The rule requires all adoption agencies to be non-profits. Christina distributed copies of their annual report form. In addition, DCFS is putting together a website that will provide a lot of information about adoption agencies. Christina has been meeting with a lot of people to work on this and eventually there will be links from DCFS pages to the other web pages. There will be a toll-free number, similar to the daycare hotline, where people can call to obtain information about agencies, including licensing violations, etc. She noted that adoption facilitators can no longer operate in Illinois.

Services to Deaf Children - Marsha Northrup/Michael Wonderlich

Marsha said that she and Michael are working to identify foster families that are interested in being specialized homes for parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Marsha has been working hard to develop a certified list of interpreters throughout the state. The State of Illinois is working on developing criteria to standardize qualifications for interpreters. Marsha is working on providing DNET resources available for deaf and hard of hearing adults, including camps, educational opportunities, etc. Marsha is looking for both deaf parents and hearing parents that can learn sign language and parent foster children. The need appears to be greater in Chicago, but they're researching to determine exactly where the need is. The current focus is primarily on Chicago. Michael stated that one of the things the survey is showing us is that in many cases there are deaf or hard of hearing family members (including wards), but accommodations are not available to help these families communicate. There are between 100-150 wards that are deaf or hard of hearing and we want to make sure that we have services for them. The goal is to train families to understand deaf culture, learn sign language, etc. Marsha and Michael will return in May for a longer presentation.

WORKING LUNCH

Nominating Committee - Vicky Kline

Adrienne appointed Vicky Kline, Donsetta Blakely and Claudia Davis to serve on this committee. Vicky referenced the section in the bylaws that addressed criteria for nominees. Claudia distributed the nomination forms. Completed forms must be received by midnight, April 14th. Vicky's fax number is the same as her phone number. Members were asked to refer to the attendance sheet and membership list included in their meeting packets when making their nominations to ensure the nominees met all requirements. Nominees will be contacted and must reply in writing to accept or decline the nomination. The elections will be held May 19th. Absentee ballots will be distributed upon request and are due back no later than May 18th. Anyone with questions or needing accommodations to vote or nominate must call Vicky Kline.

Report from the Office of Foster Parent Support

Ray Gates

No report was needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Implementation Plan Process

Gwenn Eyer

All plans were scored by the end of January. Feedback letters were mailed the first week in March.

Clinical Placement Reviews Update

Terry McGlothlin

Edgar Hernandez spoke about clinical placement reviews at the last meeting. The Council requested detailed numbers and, in addition to emailed results, a copy is included in the packet.

MOTION: Andrea Miller made the motion to adjourn. Ruth Dominguez seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

TASK LIST:

- Marsha Northrup and Michael Wonderlich will return in May for an extended presentation.
- Follow up on the Sibling Rights report – Adrienne Welenc.
- Follow up on the opportunity to participate in SYAB meetings – Adrienne Welenc.
- Bill Schmidt will be back at the next meeting to discuss clothing vouchers. Members are asked to provide detailed information regarding problems prior to the meeting.

The next meeting will be held April 21st at Northfield Inn & Suites, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL.