

Child and Family Services Review Advisory Committee

May 15, 2013

Governor's Office Building – 315

Attendance: Kimberly Abbott, Wendy Austin, Christy Collins, Kendall Darling, Christine DeTienne, Dale Fitch, Sally Gaines, Marta Halter, Teresa Hayner, Monica Hogue, Amy Kessel, Tanya Keys, Laura Malzner, Amy Martin, Wade McDonald, Scott Montgomery, Keith Noble, Clark Peters, Tricia Phillips, Susan Savage, Tom Schlimpert, Melissa Smyser, Meliny Staysa, Nickie Steinhoff, Donna Sybouts, Rosalyn Wilson, Debi Word, Amy Hance, Nancy Reid

Absent: Beth Dessem, Ryan Dowis, Dr. Robert Prue

MINUTES

- Christine DeTienne called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone; Christine introduced herself, explaining that Rebecca Porter had retired and she had taken Becky's place. The rest of the committee introduced themselves.
- Susan Savage, Deputy Director of the Children's Division gave an update from the Division.
 - **Legislation** – Bills that have been truly agreed and passed
 - **SB-47** - This act adds to the list of qualified legal guardians of a child who shall receive subsidies in the same manner as such subsidies are available for adoptive parents. This act provides for subsidies for "qualified relatives", which includes any person related to the child by blood or affinity as well as for any "qualified close nonrelated person" which includes any nonrelated person whose life is so intermingled with the child such that the relationship is similar to a family relationship.
 - **HCS/SB 205** - This act modifies provisions relating to foster children.
 - Under current law, if a youth under the age of 18 is released from the custody of the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services, the juvenile officer, the Children's Division or the youth may petition the court to return to the custody of the Children's Division if it appears it would be in the youth's best interest. This act raises the age limit from 18 to 21. This provision is substantially similar to SB 208 (2013) and HB 507 (2013).
 - Beginning July 1, 2014, children 15 years of age or older who are in the foster care system or the Division of Youth Services program

within the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services shall receive a visit to a state university, community or technical college, or an armed services recruiter before being adopted or terminated by foster care or completing the division's custody or training. The visit shall include an entry application process, financial support application and availability, career options with academic or technical training, a campus tour, and other information and experience desired by the child. The visit shall not be required if waived by the youth's family support or treatment team.

- **Budget**

- The budget has been submitted, reviewed and passed through committee, has gone through the house and senate and now goes to the Governor for his signature. Here is what has been presented to the Governor:
 - Pay Plan- All state employees - \$500.00 raise across the board which will take effect January, 2014
 - The Children's Division used to have a program pool; the pool has been eliminated and the funds have been distributed throughout other areas within the Children's Division

- **Children's Division**

- \$1.4 million for Recruitment and Retention Contract – (the pilot program will be located in Jackson and the Northwest part of the state)
- Rate increase of 3% for Foster Parents – level A and B parents
- Residential Care will receive a 3% increase for room and board
- \$3.5 million – Early Head Start program- restore previous cuts from previous year's budget
- Line item of \$200,000.00 in the budget for an Outdoor Wilderness Program – (this was in this year's budget and has been extended for next year's)
- \$1 million - for social integration – to reduce generation involvement in the Child Welfare system.
- There will be no reduction in the field staff
- No reduction in travel expenses for field staff

- **Division**

- The Division is working with Youth Services on a crossover youth pilot
 - Two pilot sites, Greene and Jefferson, - measuring case review, life mapping to determine if there are interventions needing to be done, lots of incentives

- Supervision
 - Very focus on supervision in the state – supervisory guide and enhanced process went out to the field in March. We are in a three month testing process. We have monthly calls to get feedback to see how well the guide is working. After the three months, we will then tweak the guide and move it out statewide.
- Mobility Project
 - A plan has been presented to Division, there are concerns regarding security issues we need to work through and to consider. Our time frame for getting implemented has changed.
 - Internet Health Tracking System – working with MO Health and other agencies – working together so staff will be able to access information.
- Marta Halter gave an update on Children’s Division
 - Central Office has put together a think tank for LGBTQ to review our policies and practice to help with these issues.
 - Trauma has been a hot topic these last several months. Marta has invited Dr. Patsy Carter to do training with Central Office staff later this month
 - Reviewing critical events, deaths and illness – in 2010 CD put together a structure, now we have several individuals who are working to strengthen our policies and practices
 - CD continues to partner with other agencies and developed a workgroup to discuss psychotropic medication, also discussing who can consent to putting a child on the psychotropic meds.
 - Foster Recruiting Pilot – a lot of diligent work is going into this pilot.
 - Older Youth Summit – the focus was here in Central Missouri, there was a youth panel presentation. The focus of the event is to bring together communities to discuss core issues, education, mental health, permanency, and community collaboration.
 - Service Array Project – this group is continuing to work together.
- Christine DeTienne – read a letter addressed to the Missouri CRSR/PIP Advisory Committee from Steve Preister and Rebecca Porter (see attached.)
 - A brief history of the service array project was given. In the evolution of the project they found several areas that need to be given consideration.
 - Found from the two pilot sites - early buy in is essential
 - Keep stakeholders invested in the program
 - Do one site at a time – extensive tech support
 - Technical support needed to support the process

- The Committee will be getting this report soon. Will need to get the feedback by the end of May. The report will be sent out electronically.
- Tricia Phillips gave an update on the COA site reviews.
 - Currently three sites have had reviews: Region A, Region B and Central Office – CA/N.
 - Tricia reported to the committee they may be asked to participate in a survey via mail and/or asked to participate by being interviewed.
 - These site visits will continue for one week out of every month for the next year.
 - Site visits have gone well.
 - Susan Savage gave a quick update on the CQI process and how we approach CQI; the reviewers have been very complimentary of Children’s Division’s CQI process.
- IVB – Christine DeTienne gave an introduction to the IVB Review. A few key areas will be presenting a report on what will be included in the IVB Annual Review. Any feedback from the committee will be welcomed.
- Scott Montgomery gave a report on “The CA/N Intake Program. Briefed the committee on the Dual track system that is used when a Hotline call comes in. This system takes into account the welfare of the child. (See handout). Scott talked about the Safety Tool being used throughout the whole program, stating it is a guide. (see handout)
 - Scott shared some demographic information regarding alleged victims by age and abuse, stating the highest age range for abuse is early childhood from the ages of birth through age 8.
- Christy Collins gave a report on Permanency
 - Foster Care – kids who are removed from home because of abuse and neglect. Goal of the agency is to reunify the family as quickly as possible. If the agency is unable to place with relatives, then the agency looks at different level of foster care.
 - Foster care growth since 2009 – we have seen a growth. Last fiscal year we have seen a slowed down.
 - The Children’s Division reviewed 5 circuits with increase in Foster Care Placements and then looked at 5 circuits who have stabilized, in comparing these circuits these are trends we found:
 - Increase in substance abuse
 - Less community resources
 - Worker turnover

- Increase entry versus decrease exits
- Key Themes
 - Family Centered Practices
 - Collaboration and relationship building with external partners
 - Staff retention and workforce development
 - Service Array
 - Average length of stay working
 - Since FY09 – the average length of stay for children in the foster care system has decreased from 25.1 months to 22.4 month in FY12.
- Meliny Staysa talked about the Permanency Summit. The primary topic of the meeting was TPR and adoption, also several other concerns were addressed,
 - Older youth in foster care –it was strongly suggested we cut off our data at 18. Meliny discussed the ROM data and the reason for cutting it at 18.
 - Placement stability – some improvement
 - FY10 – 82.17
 - FY11 – 83.18%
 - Relative/Kin Placement
 - Increase in number of children placed with relative kin, from 26.22% placed with relatives in 2009 to 33.37 in 2012
 - Changing Service Privileges – there will be an increase in relative placement with the changes in the law which expands the definition of those considered family.
 - Those children exiting care in FY12
 - 5.62% exited to independence
 - 19.07% exited to adoption
 - 47.01% returned home
 - 13.81% to guardianship
 - 14.51% to other outcomes
 - Increase of number of children exiting care, in the last three years from 5,255 children in FY10 to 5,775 exiting in FY12
 - Strategies to reduce time in care
 - Enhance oversight by supervisor
 - Better collaboration with the court in monitoring child progress toward permanency
 - Development of local process for reviewing young children who have not achieved permanency
 - Worker perform (is helping)
 - Enhance oversight by supervisor
 - Better collaboration
 - IVB Plan
 - March 31, 2012 – 46% of the children under 6 available for adoption compared to 69% as of January 31, 2013

- We are seeing the ages under 5 exiting care much faster than other age groups.
- Sally Gaines – Older Youth Program
 - Our older youth are between the ages of 14 and 21
 - Currently the Children’s Division contracts out all services for our older youth program
 - Currently the Children’s Division has a year under our belts with these contracts:
 - Chafee – contract is in effect until October 2015 with annual renewals
 - Six agencies providing services
 - In FY13, Chafee contracts were amended to include youth who were previously served for life skills teaching under the Specialized Care Management Contract
 - TLP contract expires June 2016 with annual renewal
 - 16 agencies providing services
 - In FY13, the TLP contracts were amended to allow Division of Youth Services to use TLP providers under the Children’s Division contract
 - The ETV and Missouri Reach contract expires March, 2015 with annual renewals
- Ms. Gaines went over the Older youth efforts and memos which were issued that were specific to older youth:
 - CD Memo 13-11 – was issued regarding guardianship and youth with special needs
 - CD Memo 13-13 – was issued discussing requirements of address information for Older Youth in preparation of the FACES implementation and as a reminder for NYTD surveying purposes
 - PA13-FCOOHC-01 was issued regarding exit planning
 - CD Memo 12-98 – was issued to remind staff of surveying for NYTD resuming for the baseline 19 year olds
 - CD-Memo 12-77 – was issued regarding an agreement that the Children’s Division entered into with TransUnion to conduct fraud prevention service checks to 16 and 17 year olds
- Ms. Gaines reported we are currently in the process of surveying our 19 year olds, we are in our second round and will conclude in October
 - Ms. Gaines spoke about how the community is also getting involved and gave an example of Community Federal bank making arrangements for older youth to open a banking account, and given a debit card. The bank also teaches classes on finances. Currently it is

only in the Northwest area. Hopefully this will be a statewide endeavor.

- Youth Independence Interdepartmental Initiative
 - Blue Ribbon Panel for Youth Aging-out of Foster Care in August, 2008
 - Met from October 2008 until May 2009 – 17 members
 - The panel was charged to assess current and private resources within Missouri
 - The committee focused on six primary topics:
 - Permanency and lifelong connections
 - Physical and mental health
 - Transitional support
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Cross System collaboration
 - Youth Independence Interdepartmental Initiative was formed in April 2010 and convened over the next two years with the purpose of implementing the Blue Ribbon Panel Task Force on Aging Out's recommendations
 - Older Youth Summit began in April 2013 with 83 participants
- State Youth Advisory Board consist of youth ages 16-21 years old
 - The board meets quarterly
 - The board is currently planning for the Older Youth Conference – they are putting together a video for the conference
- Indian Tribe Consultation and Coordination update
 - They are mostly in the Southeast part of the state,
 - All benefits and services under the programs are made available to Native American youth in the state on the same basis as other youth
 - ILC monitors OY for referral to Chafee services
 - Currently there are two Native American youth on the State Youth Advisory Board
- Education Program (PREP)
 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010
 - 2012 entered into MOU with Department of Health and Senior Services
 - Chafee providers using evidence based curriculums
- Educational Training Voucher
 - Missouri has utilized all of its ETV funds for the past six years
 - There are no plans to change the eligibility criteria
 - In 2010 – 2011 there were 297 youth funded from ETV, of those 297- 143 (48%) were first time funded
 - In 2011 – 2012, there were 291 youth funded from ETV. Of those 291 – 149 (51%) were first time funded

- Missouri Reach
 - In 2009, House Bill 481 – Tuition and Fee Waiver for Children who have been in Foster Care passed. In coordination with Department of Higher Education, funding appropriations were provided for this program for FY13 for \$188,000. Implementation of the program fully began in fall of 2011.
 - As of February 2013, 40 youth have applied for Missouri Reach compared to 34 in 2012. Of these 40 youth, 22 have been funded for FY13.

- Meliny Staysa and Tricia Phillips updated the committee on CQI
 - CQI is in the process of
 - Identifying, describing and analyzing strengths and problems
 - Testing, implementing, learning from, and revising solutions
 - Foundational Administrative Structure
 - Commitment to CQI by Agency leadership
 - Establishing clear directions and expectation for outcomes and goals
 - Time provided for staff to engage in CQI
 - Feedback loop
 - Strategic plan and long term efforts
 - Units of staff designated and dedicated to the CQI process
 - Quality Data Collection
 - Consistent instruments and rating
 - Clear process for collecting and extracting data
 - Process for collecting or quantitative and qualitative data
 - Addressing key issues
 - FACES system built in edits

- Christine opened the floor to the Stakeholders for comments

- Federal – stated they were pleased with how the committee is embracing CQI

- Discussion of the upcoming dates for the next meetings

- Meeting was adjourned