

## Child and Family Services (CFSR) Advisory Committee Agenda

August 19, 2015

10am – 3pm

Governor's Office Building, Room 470

### Attendees:

Christine DeTienne - Children's Division

Crystal Wilson - Children's Division

Kim Abbott – OSCA

Julie Lester – Children's Division

Crystal Wilson - Children's Division

Laura Malzner – Children's Trust Fund

Keith Noble – Preferred Family Healthcare

Anthony Brewer – State Youth Advisory Board

Carla Gilzow – Children's Division

Janet Braker – Cornerstones of Care

Clark Peters – University of Missouri

Cindy Reese – Dept of Health & Senior Svcs

Melissa Smyser – Dept of Mental Health

Shawn Boyd – Children's Division

Susan Savage – Children's Division

Nickie Steinhoff – Foster Adoptive Care Coalition

Wade McDonald – Children's Division

Tiffany Moore – Children's Division

Christy Collins – Children's Division

Tim Decker – Children's Division

Teresa Hayner – Good Shepherd

Dale Fitch – University of Missouri

Welcome by Christine DeTienne and Introductions made.

### Announcements and Successes

Christy Collins provided an update on Senate Bill 341 which was passed in the 2015 legislative session. These changes will go into effect August 28, 2015. Senate Bill 341 requires the Children's Division to utilize a family assessment and services approach when reports are received containing concerns of children with problem sexual behaviors. Historically, these reports have been classified as non-caretaker referrals which the Division referred to the juvenile office and/or law enforcement for investigation of potential delinquent acts. The intent of Senate Bill 341 is to provide an avenue for intervention and treatment for these children. Six full-time employee (FTE) positions (specialized workers) were allocated to assist the Division in the implementation of Senate Bill 341. One specialized worker will be based in each region, with the exception of the Northern Region, which has been allocated two positions. Initially, the six specialized workers will be completing these reports. Back-up staff will also be identified in each region to assist the six specialized workers.

Senate Bill 341 also requires each school to post signs containing a child-friendly acronym for the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. Posters are available for schools to download at <http://dss.mo.gov/cd/can.htm>. This will likely result in an increase in the number of child abuse and neglect reports made by children. Pursuant to [Section: 210.0145](#), parental notification is required, prior to contacting the child reporter, unless the alleged perpetrator is a parent of the child.

Melissa Smyser provided an update about the excellence in mental health initiative. DMH applied for a grant to revamp the mental health system through the excellence in mental health initiative. The grant is a planning grant to plan for what the grant will look like. Community mental health centers will be

able to apply to be CBHC certified Behavioral Health Centers. The planning grant will include training dollars for peer support to an adult and family support services will be offered.

### **CD Strategic Direction- Tim Decker, CD Director**

Tim shared with the group the vision as well as the philosophical approach. In order to change your destination, you have to start from a different place. Children's Division is being very attentive to culture change as we look at practice change. Simple changes can make a world of difference for our relationships.

The Strategic Themes / Focus Areas are: Seeing families accurately, Engaging families, Making informed decisions and Strengthening frontline practice. Seeing people in the full frames of their lives gives us the ability to work more effectively with families.

Family Centered Service Values: Wellbeing, Family, Whole People, Strengths, Partnerships, and Change. The Practice Model is about what is foundational and what builds on other things. Also need to think about alignment. Complete alignment between foundations and practices. Systemically implement the foundation pieces. Apply to staff and partners as well as families.

Five Domains of Wellbeing framework is how we see families and how we sustain change. Trauma informed practice is a way of looking at the world, how we work with people and ourselves. The Signs of Safety approach is a primary platform for engaging families. It is a child protection framework out of Western Australia and is a form of solution based casework. Differential Response is using the two tracks (investigations and assessments) as they were intended and not treating all reports the same. Team Decision Making is using a neutral facilitator to conduct meetings. The TDM process is used for key placement and custody decisions. The New FCS Model is evolving for intact families. The model is focused on least restrictive environments preventing children from coming into custody and more defined caseload of who will be served. There is a commonality across the initiatives.

There will need to be collaboration with courts and the community around all of these initiatives. The Division is using the NIRN Implementation Drivers to drive the implementation process for the initiatives. CD is moving into the Installation phase of the implementation model.

The role of CFSR Advisory Committee is a System Driver in the implementation piece. Dale Fitch discussed with the group software that could be used to look for qualitative data in the FACES system.

The Committee would like a quarterly update on the agenda to discuss with the group how things are going with the initiatives and the challenges.

### **Children's Division Update**

Susan Savage provided an update on the mobility project. As of the middle of August, 1400 iPads have been distributed to staff. There are four applications up and going on the iPads. Wi-Fi will be placed in all of the offices. The next step is to look at supervisors receiving iPads. The feedback has been mixed on the iPads, some like the apps while others do not like to use the iPads when working in the home with families. Some are being very creative while working with families and utilizing the iPads.

## **Update on Initiatives- Christy Collins, Safety and Wellbeing Unit Manager**

- Signs of Safety is being implemented in Jackson County. Signs of Safety focuses on seeing families differently and changing the way families experience working with CD. It looks at finding something that you can connect with the family. Front line staff has been involved from the beginning with the implementation of Signs of Safety. Everyone will be trained in September and the Jackson County pilot will start once everyone is trained. The training is provided by Signs of Safety staff. A Case Mapping Tool with Three columns- What are we worried about, What's working well, and What Needs to Happen has been created to use in the pilot. The tool will replace several existing forms currently being used. The focus is on using critical thinking to complete the tool with the family in all three program areas. Discussion was had about how to evaluate and additional training options.
- Differential Response Pilot started in June 2015 with four circuits in the Southwest portion of the state. Each circuit has dedicated staff to complete family assessments. The goal of the pilot is to help families get the services needed through the family assessment process and reduce the amount of time with Division intervention. The hope is the new practice will also reduce the number of children entering foster care and decrease future maltreatment. Should the pilot prove valuable, the Division will discuss the possibility of statewide implementation with the Executive Team. Staff are documenting how they assure safety and document but no longer doing the safety plan on family assessments. MSU is doing the evaluation of the project. Surveys with staff and the families we work with.
- St. Louis City is going to pilot the new FCS model. The referral form they plan on using was provided to the group. On the 2nd page of the referral form, they are going to focus on what they think the family needs by opening a FCS case. The third page provides how each case will be screened differently. The staff participating in the pilot hope to spend more time working with the families and less time on paperwork. Staff will have smaller caseload sizes and use a toolbox of tools when working with families. We recognize every family is different and want to allow staff to determine what tools workers feel comfortable using and what tools work best for the family. Evaluation piece, discussed using existing data.

### **2015 Meeting Date:**

**November 18, 2015      Governor's Office Building, Room 470**

The meetings for the next year will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every quarter.

- **February 17, 2016      Governor's Office Building, Room 470**
- **May 18, 2016          Governor's Office Building, Room 470**
- **August 17, 2016        Governor's Office Building, Room 470**
- **November 16, 2016     Governor's Office Building, Room 470**