

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, October 17, 2008  
BMCW Administrative Site  
Minutes**

Present: Judge Triggiano, Mary Pat Bohn, Janel Hines, Pastor Archie Ivy, David Hoffman, Wanda Montgomery, Frank Gaunt, Cyrus Behroozi, Cathy Swessel.

Guests: Suzanne Zipperer, Pam Mitchell, Anita Cruz

Pastor Ivy opened the meeting with greetings and introductions.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the September 19, 2008 meeting were approved as read.

**Briefing Bi-Annual Settlement Report, Mark Sarvela**

BMCW Program Evaluation Manager, Mark Sarvela, presented the Bi-Annual Settlement Report. This report was presented to the Community in September. The Committee had the opportunity for questions and discussion.

It was suggested that the Bureau should move toward looking at best practice standards as opposed to performance standards as opposed to performance standards that are part of the settlement agreement.

Linda Davis announced that the health committee is sponsoring a “mini summit” on November 3, 2008. Participants at the summit will look at the timeliness of initial health screens and how to make improvements in this area.

**Community Meeting**

The Committee discussed the format of the bi-annual community meeting.

- The Bureau is not required to do a meeting every six months – do we want to continue to have meetings or can we provide this information at a regularly scheduled Partnership Council meeting?
- What do we want in the meetings? Need to work on more interesting, more efficient meetings.
- Meetings are mostly attended by BMCW staff. Community members generally come to hear what Eric Thompson has to say. Who do we want to engage at these meetings? Who are we identifying as community?
- Do we need to change the location and time of the meeting?

The Committee agreed that there is time to frame a new agenda and/or format before the next Community meeting.

**Monthly Child Death Report/Egregious Incident Report: Mary Pat Bohn**

Mary Pat gave the report on behalf of Denise Revels Robinson who was out of town for a meeting. She reported that there has been one new child death since the last Executive Committee meeting. The Bureau will provide more information as it is available.

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, October 17, 2008  
BMCW Administrative Site  
Minutes**

**View from the Bench, Judge Mary Triggiano**

Judge Triggiano reported that the Children's Court Judiciary were part of a training that looked at permanency and concurrent planning

- Language regarding permanency and concurrent planning are often confusing.
- Court forms and statutes have different language. Do our forms need to be changed?
- We have many tools at our disposal – how are we putting the pieces together?
- Need to start focusing on the processes at the front end of the plan. Starting to look at parental capacities.
- New federal legislation says we need to include children at court hearing – unanswered questions about how to do this.

Safety Plan Update, Suzanne Zipperer

Suzanne presented an update on the Safety Plan. The format of the Safety Plan document has been modified and the completed tasks have been removed.

**BMCW/DSP Updates, Cyrus Behroozi, Mary Pat Bohn**

**DCF, DSP Updates, Cyrus Behroozi**

- The Initial Assessment file review at region 3 is complete. Reviews at Regions 1 and 2 were done earlier this month.
- A Child Fatality Review meeting will be held next week to discuss a new design for CART.
- Roadmap discussions are ongoing.
- Listening sessions continue.
- The fiscal situation for the Department is “extremely challenging.”

**BMCW Updates, Mary Pat Bohn**

- Bureau staff participated in the Milwaukee Fatherhood Summit held the weekend of October 9, 2008.
- A Bureau-wide manager meeting is scheduled for October 31.
- Thirteen new social workers have been hired.

**Office of the Milwaukee Ombudsman for Child Welfare, Pam Mitchell**

Pam Mitchell presented the Ombudsman's activity report for January 1 through September 30, 2008.

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, October 17, 2008  
BMCW Administrative Site  
Minutes**

**CEO Reports**

Wanda Montgomery reported that three staff people from CFCP were in Denver recently to attend a conference on how to address staff turnover.

The conference focused on how we hire people and how we get people to stay. CFCP has developed a strategy for dealing with turnover:

- Developing a supervisor/staff relationship
- Looking at eliminating duplication of work
- Resources
- Specialized positions
- Promotional opportunities
- Improving interview process – providing a realistic view of the job.
- Developing an employee scorecard for each staff person.

Wanda announced that CFCP currently has no job openings.

Cathy Swessel of CSSW announced that invitations for this year's adoption day (November 21) would be going out soon. Next month's Executive Committee meeting will be held at Children's Court so that members can participate in the day's events.

The Partnership Council is working on suggestions to fill current vacancies. Some members have been re-appointed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zellner