

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, March 14, 2008
BMCW Administrative Site
Minutes**

Present: Deborah Blanks, Wanda Montgomery, Cathy Swessel, Scott Pagelow for Frank Gaunt, Dr. Earnestine Willis, Denise Revels Robinson, Pastor Archie Ivy, Janel Hines, David Hoffman, Linda Davis, Jennie Dorsey.

Guests: Lance Jones, Danielle Gadowski, BMCW Workforce Committee Representatives - Mary Kennedy, Linda Knors, Diane Welsh, Suzanne Zipperer, Denise Woldoko, Eric Underly, Pam Cotton, Amy Friesema, Angela Gunn

Pastor Ivy opened the meeting with greetings and introductions.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 15, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected.

Announcements

Wanda Montgomery announced that Dr. Earnestine Willis is the recipient of the 2008 Sacagawea Award from Professional Dimensions, a networking organization for professional women. The award was presented March 12. The Committee congratulated Dr. Willis on receiving this award.

Workforce Steering Committee report, Suzanne Zipperer, Eric Underly

Workforce Steering Committee co-chairs Suzanne Zipperer, Eric Underly and chairs of the various workforce subcommittees presented an update on Phase 2. As part of Phase 2, the various subcommittees worked on 174 suggestions from Bureau staff. Each one of the suggestions was checked, and a "vast" number of the suggestions were already being worked on. Many of the suggestions are part of the current Safety Plan. Pastor Ivy and Denise Revels Robinson presented certificates of recognition to staff who worked on the Steering Committee.

Monthly Report on Child Death and Egregious Incident Information, Denise Revels Robinson

Denise Revels Robinson reported on two child deaths. An infant who was hospitalized due to severe injuries from Shaken Baby Syndrome died from his injuries in February 2008 and an adolescent, with a chronic medical condition, who had been returned to her birth mother died.

The group discussed the following issues regarding the child deaths.

- The child deaths fit the criteria for CART review and will be referred to CART.
- Any issues that need attention should be addressed when deciding to reunify.
- When a child is reunified the court order continues for 6 to 9 months or longer. Bureau contact and services continues.

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- It is important for the Bureau to connect with schools to make sure children are safe.
- What is the community standard for “safe”? There is a need for community input regarding safety. What does “safe” mean? Who is responsible for safety?
- It is everyone’s responsibility to keep children safe. The Bureau can be a key player in the effort to engage the community regarding this issue.
- MPS is designing functional plans for the district to support strategic plans. Safety is included.
- A statewide conversation regarding safety guidelines could be part of the development of the new Department of Children and Families.
- Need to look at safety as safe from impending danger and consider parental capacity to protect.
- Denise will schedule a Protective Capacity Family Assessment presentation for the Executive Committee.

Child Fatality Review Report and Recommendations

Closed Session

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously for the Executive Committee of the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council to convene in closed session, pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(g), in that it may be considering the medical, social, and personal histories of specific persons involved in child protection investigations.

Discussion of CART’s Review/Recommendations

- The CART team has its own process and protocol regarding its reviews and recommendations to the Partnership Council. The process is evolving all the time and may need to be revised again now that the Partnership Council is a Citizen Review Panel.
- CART does reviews and provides the Partnership Council with context regarding recommendations. With its new designation as a Citizen Review Panel, the Partnership Council will have access to more of this information.
- The reviews need to identify systems to determine where we can all do better.
- Partnership Council members need to better understand CART’s recommendations. Need to have more information to help in understanding the impact on children and how systems and protocol areas are affected.
- Reviews are designed to provide information not linked to specific cases.
- How can all reviews be better coordinated so everyone can work together? How can we bring everyone together across all systems?

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zellner