



DCF 56 Advisory Council Meeting

May 15, 2024

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Link:

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/89567305202?pwd=V2NBL09EejNGUnVCLzA2M1VPaFcrZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 6730 5202

Passcode: 560797

or dial in: +1 (312) 626-6799

DCF Staff			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Shannon Braden	x	Elaine Pridgen	x
Emily Erickson	x	Jennifer Sailer	x
Dana Johnson	x	Britny Isaacs	x
Shelby McCulley		Kristie Buwalda	x
Allison Fern	x	Chuck Stephens	x
Rachel Nilli		Lauren Washington	

Steering Committee Members (not required to be in attendance for this meeting)				
Member	Present	Nominating Organization	Agency Employed	Area of Expertise
Lisa Broll		Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA)	Walworth County Department of Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Emily Coddington		Wisconsin Association of Family and Child Agencies (WAFCA)	Wisconsin Association of Family and Child Agencies (WAFCA)	Child Welfare
Jill Collins		Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS)	Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS)	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Deanna Collins		Forest County Potawatomi Tribe	Forest County Potawatomi Tribe	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Brent Ruehlow		WCHSA	Jefferson County Department of Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Machelle Shipman		WAFCA	ANU Family Services	Private Child Placing Agency



Advisory Council Members (17 participants with DCF staff)				
Member	Present	Nominating Organization	Agency Employed	Area of Expertise
Kristen Agenten	x	Public Adoptions	Children's Wisconsin	Foster Care and Adoptions
Patty Baker	x	Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS)	Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS)	Child Welfare Training
Cassandra Eggert	x	WCHSA	Outagamie County Human Services Department	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Laura Goba	x	WAFCA	Children's Wisconsin	Private Child Placing Agency
Katlyn Graebner	x	WCHSA	Green County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Kate Gravel	x	WCHSA	Dane County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Laura Halonen-Schultz	x	DMCPS	Wellpoint	Congregate Care Facilities and Services
Allison Higgins	x	WAFCA	Foundations for Healthy Transitional Living	Private Child Placing Agency
Julie Kay		Forest County Potawatomi Tribe	Forest County Potawatomi Tribe	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Andrea Leaman	x	DMCPS	Children's Wisconsin	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Michelle Jones Lim	x	WCHSA	Waukesha County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care



Tracy Schumacher	x	WCHSA	Forest County Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Brittany Shellenberger		WCHSA	Winnebago County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Julie Zidek	x	Public Adoptions	Lutheran Social Services	Foster Care and Adoptions
Jamie Socolick		Private Adoptions		

Public: Karla Meyer (Eau Claire)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

II. DCF 56 Rule Revision Updates

- 56.01, 56.04, 56.05, 56.055, 56.06, 56.07, 56.07, 56.08, 56.10, 56.12 have been submitted.
- Decision to remove 56.20 Evaluation of Level 3-5; Agencies can still choose to do their own evaluations.

III. DCF 56 Rule Revision DRAFTS for review – DCF Provided an overview of DRAFT changes an opened for discussion the following DRAFTS:

DCF 56.X Accessibility and other special needs. (Originally 56.07 (1)(m)) Areas covered included foster home accommodations, child safety in foster homes (including placement decision and review), and additional conditions for accessibility and special needs.

DCF 56.X Emergency preparedness. (Originally 56.08 (7))

- CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR. QUESTIONED THAT WE WERE IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW.
- EMERGENCY PLANS. CLARIFY THEY CAN COMBINE THE TORNADO AND FIRE PLANS ON THEIR OWN AGENCY FORMS AND UPLOAD TO THE EWISACWIS DATABASE
- DISASTER EVACUATION PLAN. REVIEWED.

DCF 56.X Transportation. (Originally 56.08 (4)) comments made regarding: Child restraint for the older kids who can get out of the 5-point harness and adding language to support additional devices. Explored option for authorizing an exception for suitable devices for older kids who try



to get out of the car seats, or they try to harm others in the car. Question raised about the shoulder-positioning car seat requirement due to similar concerns.

Emailed comment: DCF 56 Draft:

Car Seat section—I'm assuming the discussion with legal or policy (don't remember who) resulted in the decision to keep the specifics vs. saying foster parents must follow the current car seat laws?

DCF 56.X Information for foster parents. (Originally 56.12) We reviewed information within the Foster Parent Handbook and the means by which it is provided to licensed foster parents.

FOSTER PARENT HANDBOOK. QUESTION RAISED IF WE WOULD NEED TO OPEN CH 56. AGAIN, IF WE WANTED TO ADD REQUIREMENTS TO THE HANDBOOK. CLARIFIED WE CAN ADD WITHOUT OPENING RULE BUT THE OUTLINED ITEMS IN DCF 56 MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE HANDBOOK FOR DISTRIBUTION.

DCF 56.X Capacity. (Originally 56.09 (1)(m) (1) TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING CARE. We explored the changes to rule (our new DRAFT rule) which included the following changes:

NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN. Total number of foster children allowed to receive care in a foster home and added "18+ years or high school" to allow the number to relate to children who are 18 or older who may still be in an out of home care placement.

AGENCY EXCEPTIONS. Agency can make exceptions up to 8 children. Aligned with total number of individuals receiving care, not only foster children (i.e., adult's receiving specialized care). An established relationship is more flexible in the number of children who can receive care and before they were generally placed in other settings and came back into care. This section aligns with federal model

DEPARTMENT EXCEPTIONS. REQUIRED FOR 9+ INDIVIDUALS.



IV. DCF 56 Rule Revisions 56.17, 56.18, 56.19, 56.21

56.17 Child's Treatment Team for Levels 3 to 5 Questions:

- 56.17(1)(b) Questions: *Are parents being excluded from membership in treatment teams? If they are how often? How is this documented? Should different language be added here? "Unwillingness to cooperate"- how is that being interpreted?*
 - CPA does not make the decision of not allowing the parents to be part of a treatment team; default to county to make the decision.
 - If parents are excluded it is made in court and Judge restricts a parent from participating in visits, etc.
 - Suggestion to strike this element.
- 56.17(2) Responsibilities: Questions: *Which of the responsibilities are required for CPA's vs. our DCF 56 rule? Which areas should we remove as it may fit in another rule area? Are any of these requirements part of Ongoing Standards and Permanency Planning and/or do we need specific requirements for the Child Treatment Team? Where are you documenting (a)1-5?*
 - Generally, the elements listed here are identified from the CANS (56.22).
 - Ongoing standards should cover this information.
 - Can we just cite the CANS and not include language here in the rule?
 - Do we need to list out a & b?
 - Should this be based on a child's Level of Need not on the Level of Care?
 - Treatment plans are kept in an internal data base. CPAs don't have access currently to eWiSACWIS and unable to upload information to the case file.
 - Do we want/need this level of accountability in the rule?
 - Does Level of Need determine extra accountability or requirements in this section?
 - Does a CPA have additional requirements on how they are supporting youth with treatment?
 - Most CPA's use placement agreements and incorporate what they are purchasing and accountable for.
 - Comprehensive Community Services also has a treatment plan as it's requirement. How many treatment plans are required and is this confusing to parents?
- 56.17(2)(b) *Are we broad enough that a treatment plan can apply to CPAs and County Child Welfare agencies and the requirements? What does a treatment plan look like at a county? Is it different from the perm plan?*
- *What purpose does this section (c – q) have in rule? Are these practices or standards already required elsewhere; such as 56.15?*
 - Do CPAs create a separate treatment plan? Yes, for youth in level 3 placements.
- Is the child's treatment team providing the plan or the child placing agency?
- How can we streamline this for the family as well – ie. numerous plans?
- CPA perspective – if each county wanted a different requirement would be difficult to manage. Would be easier if there was a standard requirement.



56.18 Questions:

- *Does 56.18 give enough guidance? Would you change anything (add or subtract)?*
- *Is there a way to combined DCF 56.18 and 56.19? So much is mirrored. Would that be easier to read and follow?*
 - (1) 3. If a foster home with a Level 3 to 5 certification has not had placement of a child for 3 or more months and the licensing agency, supervising agency, or placing agency has not seen the foster parent in the foster home during that time, the licensing agency, supervising agency, or placing agency shall have an in-person contact with the foster parent in the foster home before a child is placed in the foster home or within 24 hours of the child's placement in the foster home.
 - *Could this be done virtually? Why does the contact need to occur in the home? Do the requirements for CSE meet the intended need?*
- 1(a) *Does interactive mean it goes both ways? Ongoing standards requires the contact and interchange of information occurs. Wording currently makes it seem that the contact is not reciprocal. Updated legislation allows pre-adopt parents to do training that is in-person & interactive.*
 - Foster parents may need/want this contact. Quality is not addressed. Just require monthly contact. Address condition of the home and add to the 56.18(3) purposes of contact section.
- *CSE requires within 24 hours of placement vs. 56.18(1)(b)3 does the licensing agency need to stop by before placement? Is this tied to LOC that the foster parent is required to have quarterly contact. Would we want this to include Level 2 as well? CSE came after the last modification to DCF 56. Do they need to do a full walk-through? What is the purpose of this contact? What if the child is currently in the hospital?*
 - Attend CSE within 24 hours of placement.

56.19 Questions: *Should anything be added or subtracted from this section?*

- LOC 3 & 4 require in home contact. Level 5 does not say where contact needs to occur. Make sure this requirement aligns with ongoing standards.
- A lot of similarities but a few differences in 56.18 & 56.19. *Would it be easier to have in one section? Focus on child contacts. Separate by Level of Care and what contact is needed for child and foster parent.*

V. Next Steps: Table 56.21 for the next meeting, June 19, 2024

VI. Adjourn