



DCF 56 Steering Committee Meeting - MINUTES

7/15/2024 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

DCF Staff			
Name	Present	Name	Present
John Elliott	X	Elaine Pridgen	X
Emily Erickson	X	Jennifer Sailer	X
Dana Johnson	X	Britny Smuk	X
Shelby McCulley	X	Kristie Buwalda	X
Shannon Braden	X	Dustin Hinze	X
Rachel Nili	X		

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



Advisory Council Members				
Member	Present	Nominating Organization	Agency Employed	Area of Expertise
Kristen Agentin		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		WCHSA	Outagamie County Human Services Department	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Allison Fern	X	BRO	State of Wisconsin	Child Welfare
Laura Goba		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		WCHSA	Dane County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Laura Halonen-Schultz		DMCPS	Wellpoint	Congregate Care Facilities and Services
Allison Higgins		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		DMCPS	Children's Wisconsin	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Michelle Lim		WCHSA	Waukesha County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Tracy Schumacher		WCHSA	Forest County Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Brittany Shellenberger	X	WCHSA	Winnebago County Health and Human Services	Ongoing Child Welfare and Foster Care
Julie Zidek		Public Adoptions	Lutheran Social Services	Foster Care and Adoptions



AGENDA

- (10:00-10:05) I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
- (10:05-10:15) II. DCF 56 Rule Status Timeline
- (10:15-10:40) III. DCF 56 Implementation
- a. Presentation on Recommendations
 - b. Communication & Training
 - c. DCF Uniform Assessment Process
- (10:40-10:50) IV. Questions and Considerations
- (10:50-10:55) VII. Next Steps
- (11:00) VIII. Adjourn

MEETING NOTES

- I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions (Dana)**
- a. Roll call taken and introductions made
- II. DCF 56 Rule Status Timeline**
- a. Shared a visual of an updated timeline.
- III. DCF 56 Implementation**
- a. Reviewed non-relative rule updates proposed and recommended language on a few areas where there has been much conversation. Discussed areas that may be helpful to consider for developing a communication plan, training, and seeking consensus with community partners.
 - b. It was recommended by the Advisory Council to have as much information as possible provided to the workforce, including using a combination of traditional training methods and small group conversations on the philosophical changes that the revisions may require.
 - c. Opinions were shared on the revised rule language and identifying small changes or incorporating word choices that may be both useful for licensors to be able to rule out inappropriate foster parent applicants, but also the need to support a diverse home environment to support continued options for foster parent licensure.
 - d. Partnership with the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System and how they will support the implementation of DCF 56.
 - e. Highlighted the shift from identifying the assessment process in Wisconsin as the SAFE process (SAFE Questionnaire) and uncoupling the assessment tool from the process. Identified there several steps and tool involved in the DCF



Uniform Assessment Process and that the SAFE tool is one of those. Identified the importance of interviews, home visits, and that the relative rule will use a different assessment tool than SAFE, one recommended by the National Organizations who is partnered with the Children's Bureau. Knowing that both of these tools will be revised to meet the Wisconsin Child Welfare Model For Practice provided understanding on the potential changes that may occur when DCF 56 training is revised.

IV. Questions and Considerations

- a. Questions about the language choices were discussed. Questions related to how training will be implemented were addressed.
- b. No outstanding issues identified.
- c. Please send any additional feedback to DanaL.Johnson@wisconsin.gov

V. Next Steps & 2025 Meeting Schedule

- a. Discussed the upcoming meetings added to the 2025 calendar where the Advisory Council will review actual draft rule language to provide concrete feedback.

VI. Adjourn

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Advisory Council Meeting: November 13 - 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm via Zoom

Steering Committee: No additional meetings scheduled at this time.