

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Friday, May 30, 2014

BMCW 635 N. 26 St.

Minutes

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Members present: Maria Rodriguez, Susan Gadacz, State Senator Nikiya Harris, State Representative LaTonya Johnson, Tony Shields, Arlene Happach, Linda Davis, Mallory O'Brien, Judge Dwyer representing Judge Triggiano, Chris Holmes Dr. Earnestine Willis, Kim Kampschroer, Sara Scullen, Colleen Ellingson, Holly Peterson for State Senator Alberta Darling, Deanna Alexander, B. Thomas Wanta.

Linda Davis opened the meeting with introductions and the reading of the public notice.

Public Notice

The notice of the meeting was published in the Monday, May 19, 2014 edition of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Second, the notice was faxed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on Monday, May 19, 2014. Finally, the notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on Friday, May 9, 2014. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

Minutes

Minutes from the January 31, 2014 meeting approved as read.

Motion

A motion was made to add a Guardian Ad Litem ad hoc committee composed of Judge Mary Triggiano, Sara Scullen and Linda Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report, Arlene Happach

- Increased Referrals/Acuity
 - Higher acuity of families since 2011
 - Number of kids in custody has been going up since October, 2013.
 - Initial Assessment caseloads are now very, very high.
- Training
 - SSDM (Supervisory Safety Decision Making) training continues.
 - Initial Assessment staff will be receiving mental health training
 - Staff will be trained in safety planning for domestic violence situations.
- Reorganization
 - QA technical assistants will all be in one place under one person.
- Partnerships
 - One Hope 27 – provides clothing for children in foster care.
 - One Simple Wish – national group that grants wishes to foster children.
- Foster Care
 - Quality Foster Care Initiative
 - Culture change in the way we look at foster care.

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- Still have the same number of foster homes, but more kids needing homes. Relative placement helps with this.
 - Attempting to recruit non-English speaking families.
 - Need to shake up how we look at recruitment. Need to recruit in specific geographical locations to help keep kids in home schools.

- Foster Parents as Support to Birth Parent – Pilot
 - Goal is to make reunifications better, sooner and stay more stable.
- Family Drug Treatment Court
 - Evaluation being done by UW-Madison.
- Intensive In-Home Services
 - Ninety families have been involved since reorganization nine months ago.
 - Only 9 children have been taken into custody.
- Community Services Liaison
 - The Bureau is working on filling this position.

- **From the Bench, Judge Dwyer**
 - Juvenile Detention/Rehabilitation
 - Use detention wisely.
 - Casey foundation funding
 - Judge Triggiano and Tim Grove have trained court people on trauma and how it affects kids.
 - New judicial rotation begins August 1.

- **Milwaukee Department of Safety and Permanence Grantees for Domestic Violence**
 - Sharon Lewandowski provided information on the Domestic Violence Grant
 - Three year grant
 - Working on collaborative services.
 - Will be working on training Initial Assessment Staff
 - Developing a protocol.

- **DSP Updates, Fredi-Ellen Bove**
 - DCF/DSP Five-year Plan
 - Federal requirement that the Department prepare an annual plan.
 - Cumulative five-year summary of what was accomplished and a five-year plan looking forward.
 - We are currently working on compiling documents.
 - Draft should be available in early June.
 - Next federal review will be in 2017.
 - Fire in Madison in May
 - Staff are in the process of being relocated during the repairs.

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- **DCF Updates, Eloise Anderson**

- Secretary Anderson explained a new program aimed at reducing recidivism for juvenile offenders by shoring up younger siblings.
 - Voluntary program dealing with trauma services
 - Evidence-based protocol.
 - Will involve youth ages 11-18 already in the criminal justice system or youth identified as at risk.
 - We hope to begin serving families July 1.
 - Will be able to take referrals through the school system.
 - Program will run until December 2015.

- **Children's Hospital Community Services of Wisconsin**

- Undergoing some management restructuring.
- Looking at kids and families in a different way- looking at serving kids from a developmental and parental protective aspect.

- **St. A**

- Working on caseloads—working hard to get the right staff.
- Changing hiring practices and working on retention.

- **Committee Updates**

- Out of Home Care, Colleen Ellingson
 - Committee has been looking at children three years and younger with multiple placements.
- Critical Incident Committee, Mallory O'Brien
 - The committee reviewed two cases and the last meeting
- Health/Education Committee, Dr. Earnestine Willis
 - Cares4Kids program is up and running.

- **Community Forum**

- Speakers presented information regarding Camp To Belong which will be opening in 2015. The camp provides an opportunity for kids in foster care to reunite and spend time with their siblings.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zellner