

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Friday, May 27, 2016

BMCW 635 N. 26 St.

Minutes - DRAFT

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Members Present: Mark Mertens, Senator Alberta Darling, County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. Representative for State Senator Nikiya Harris Dodd, Mallory O'Brien, Susan Gadacz, Judge Mary Triggiano, County Supervisor Deanna Alexander, Libby Mueller representing John Chisholm, State Representative Jessie Rodriguez, Dr. Veneshia McKinney-Whitson, Delvyn Crawford, Carey Courtney, Steve Gilbertson.

Welcome and introductions by new Partnership Council Chair, Mark Martens.

New Partnership Council members, Delvyn Crawford and Carey Courtney were introduced.

Notice of meeting:

First, the notice of the meeting was published in the Thursday, May 26, 2016 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 Thursday, May 26, 2016. Finally, the notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2016 meeting. Motion was approved unanimously..

Recognition

Secretary Anderson read the plaque which will be presented to outgoing Partnership Council chairman Linda Davis.

**Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services Administrator's/KidStat Report,
Robin Joseph, DMCPs Administrator**

Placement stability is moving in the right direction

Per KidStat numbers for re-entry after reunification are also heading in the right direction.

DMCPs receives many more calls regarding reports/incidents than calls that are actually CPS related. We need to let the community know what is within our scope and what is not in our scope when it comes to making calls to 220-SAFE.

Questions

Is DMCPs is fully staffed at the current time? To be fully staffed, we would have 92 workers. Currently we have 68 workers.

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Is there a danger of another backlog happening. Yes, but we are dealing with the issues and numbers are trending down. It was reported that in March the actual backlog number was 497. It was also noted that the March backlog number reflects cases left open “on paper” and does not mean the family has not been seen.

Are there cases with children with special needs as part of the backlog and do we know the number? It was explained that medical staff immediately looks at reports involving medically fragile children.

Why there are **any** backlog cases. Numbers of incoming cases do an upturn during the end of the school year and again when school starts in the fall. The number of DMCPs cases tends to reflect what is happening in the community.

Question was raised regarding the percentage of upper management staff who are people of color. Discussion followed regarding this issue and the involvement of DMCPs management in community activities.

Overview of Agency Roles

Representatives from each of the following agencies provided an overview of their organization and the work done by staff:

David Whalen, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
Ann Leinfelder Grove SaintA
Paul Moeller, PSG
Steve Gilbertson, Wraparound Milwaukee
Professional Development System, Julie Brown
Mike Boeder, Kares4KIDS

Critical Incident Committee Report

Mallory O’Brien reported that the Critical Incident Committee met today (May 27) and reviewed four cases. The Committee looked at the recommendations and added one additional recommendation, which includes an action plan.

Ad Hoc Budget Committee

Copies of the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget recommendations from the Ad Hoc Budget Committee were distributed. Sue Gadacz presented the recommendations and provided specific information for each of the following areas:

- Dedicated funding to serve sex trafficking victims in Milwaukee County
- Permanent funding for Healthy Infant Court
- Transitional services and infrastructure development for children aging out of foster care
- Higher level behavioral health services through partnerships with behavioral health providers in Milwaukee community

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- Backlog remains an issue (currently 550)
- Prepare for changes in CAPTA and First Family Act
- Review existing rates for foster care payment for caregiver parents and consider a revised methodology.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc budget Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Dual Status Youth

Mark Martens provided an overview of his work and interest with Dual System Youth. We have a long way to go in this area. Mr. Martens would like to see the Partnership Council look into the issues regarding this population. More information regarding Dual System youth can be found at RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice: <https://rfknrcjj.org>.

Community Forum

Vera Ford of the Milwaukee Job Force Center asked about the possibility of creating a partnership with DMCPD and other community entities.

Community member expressed concerns for grandparents who have family members in the CPS system. According to this community member, it seems that the system doesn't work fast enough for the kids involved.

Question was asked about state programs that might be available (example: LTE workers) that could help with a triage system for screening calls that come to access staff. Robin Joseph will look into this.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zellner