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Governor Scott Walker
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Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

MILWAUKEE CHILD WELFARE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
635 North 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Friday, May 19, 2017
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on 9/29/17

1) Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Mertens. Introductions were made around the room and attendance was taken.

Members Present: Anthony Staskunas, Christine Holmes, Delvyn Crawford, Veneshia McKinney-Whitson, Beth Zirgibel, Latonya Johnson, Mark Mertens, Mary Triggiano, Steve Taylor, Willie Johnson Jr., Alberta Darling.

Members Absent: Mallory O'Brien, Jessie Rodriguez, Jocasta Zamarripa, Susan Gadacz, Tony Shields, Carey Courtney, Marshall Murray.

11 of 18 voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

2) The Chair informed the Council of the ways in which the meeting was publicly noticed:

The notice of the meeting was published in the Wednesday, May 17, 2017 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 Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on Thursday, April 27, 2017. The revised agenda was e-mailed on Thursday, May 18, 2017. Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPS building at 635 N. 26th St. on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

3) Minutes Review:

The March 2017 minutes were approved without amendment. The vote was unanimous.

4) Open Records / Open Meeting Laws

Randall Keys, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Children and Families, provided an overview of the open records and open meeting laws.

5) Citizen Review Panel Conference

Willie Johnson, Jr., Deanna Alexander and Mark Mertens provided a brief overview on the Citizen Review Panel Conference held in Anchorage Alaska May 10-12. Libby Mueller of the District Attorney's Office also attended the conference. The conference attendees intend to review their notes from the conference and provide more details about the conference at the September Partnership Council meeting.

After discussion regarding the possibility of having a retreat for Partnership Council members, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to form an Ad Hoc planning committee to plan a retreat for Partnership Council members. Mark Mertens, Delvin Crawford and Mary Triggiano volunteered to be part of this committee. Delvin Crawford expressed interest in learning about other members strengths and weaknesses and Christine Holmes expressed interest in better exploring what the role of the partnership council is and what CPS needs from the council.

6) Community Forum

Pat McManus from the Black Health Coalition asked if the Department has information regarding the number of black children who have been adopted and then are returned to the system. Pat explained that she had met with public defenders who allegedly have concerns that black males are adopted and then returned; she wants to know where those children go. It was explained that confidentiality issues make it difficult to keep track of this type of information. This information has only recently been collected, so there is currently not a lot of data. Wisconsin Act 381 requires that information provided in court proceedings include whether the child has been adopted. Act 381 also requires that an annual report regarding this information be sent to the governor and legislature.

7) Division Updates, Robin Joseph

A review of practice regarding overpayments for out of home care was completed on May 18. DMCPS is looking at ways to work with the community, including community needs, building supports and services. On May 11, 2017 there were two showings of the video "53206" presented by Dennis Walton. This video details what happens to kids whose parents have been incarcerated. There was time for group discussion after each of the viewings.

Ongoing Services Section

As part of the Division Updates, DMCPS staff are providing information regarding information regarding their section at Partnership Council Meetings. Section Chief, Deanna Alexander and her staff presented an overview of the Ongoing Services Section. Jill Collins provided information regarding Independent Investigations; Kim Schweitzer reported on Higher Level of Care; Ranette Sykes explained her role as the Out of Home Care Liaison, and Wendy Miller discussed her duties and the Group Home contact person. The Ongoing Services Section

detailed how the group fits into the DMCPS organizational chart and how they try to support the various functions that ongoing services contracted partners provide.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Members of the Institute for Research on Poverty presented information on their research regarding the impact having a parent who is or has been incarcerated has on children in the community.

Announcements

The next Partnership Council meeting will be September 29, 2017 at noon at the DMCPS building at 635 N. 26th St.

These Meeting Minutes were approved by the Council on 9/29/17