

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Minutes 06.21.2019

FINAL

Members Present

Jameelah Love, Patti Logsdon, Mark Mertens, Michele Bria, Dr. Veneshia McKinney-Whitson, Jessie Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, Christine Holmes, Willie Johnson, Jr., Tony Shields, JoCasta Zamarippa, representative for Alberta Darling, Latonya Johnson.

Meeting Notice

The notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on June 14, 2019 and in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on June 19, 2019. Second, the notice was faxed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on June 19, 2019. The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on June 18, 2019. Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPSC building at 635 N. 26th St. on June 20, 2019. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat.

Welcome by Dr. Michele Brian and introduction of Partnership Council members

New Partnership council member were introduced:

Jameelah Love, Young Adult Consultant from ICF International
Patti Logsdon – Milwaukee County Supervisor – 9th district

Minutes

Minutes from March 29, 2019 meeting approved.

Contract Agency Updates

SaintA – Alison McMorro

Working on placement stability. As of May 8th, just five kids short of hitting 90%.
There is a higher percentage of kids placed with kin and like kin.
Jenny Keefe is the new Director of Family Services at SaintA.
Working on caregiver support for kinship and foster parents with a CCH grant to support relative care givers.
As part of Family Preservation, will be working with families for 45 days.

Children’s Hospital of Milwaukee – Community Services – Susanna Leggio and David Whalen

Continue to remain committed to Trauma Informed Care. Using the Sanctuary model.
Placement stability in March is near 90%
Number of kids placed with relatives is up to 36% and are continuing to work on this.
Staffing on licensing team has increased.
Streamlining Kinship application process.
Working on a Family Finding pilot for youth in assessment centers.

DMCPSC Updates – Division Administrator Charmin Klyve

Announcements of new positions.

Sarah Henery- DMCPSC Deputy Administrator
Demetra Parr- Nelson Initial Assessment Bureau Director
Mika Makarovich - Training Team Section Chief

Discussion of Family first Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Meeting participants suggested what they considered Important considerations concerning Family First Prevention and Services Act:

- Look at the family first in terms of resources offered and resources that already exist within the family.
- Rather than look at the weaknesses in children focus on their strengths

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Minutes 06.21.2019

FINAL

- Kin support and dealing with trauma. It is likely that kin may share some of the same circumstances as the rest of the family – learn and try to break the cycle
- Always keep looking for new solutions – never stop thinking that you already have the best solution – other possibilities are out there
- Time Monitoring
- Include and strengthen the community voice in context with the welfare system
- Clarify “at-risk” when entering the welfare system. When is too early to intervene and when is too late to intervene?
- Prevent placement disruption: What needs to be in place for placement NOT to be disruptive (wrap around process approach)
- Maximize the use of each other efficiently to eliminate redundancy
- Funding of Primary prevention (i.e. education before CPS contact). Nongovernmental is much more difficult to control (rough and tumble) so we need to be mindful of primary as well as secondary prevention
- What is child welfare across the entire continuum?
- Prevention of long-term issues (focus on kids 0-3) to prevent future needs
- Honor stable forces in individual’s lives (this goes back to family/children strengths)
- Keep families intact with things that already work for them
- Approach solutions through the eyes of the family. Give families the answers through community voice and family voice.
- Be innovative and flexible – not combative but engaging.
- Build support around families in crisis. Teach family to solve situations to avoid children being placed in out of home care.
- Rethink Safety: removing a child from the home may keep them safe but introduce other trauma
- Legal timeliness
- Highly skilled staff
- Changing community changes trauma

Next Meeting

The next Partnership Council meeting is Friday, September 27, 2019 from noon until 2:00 at the DMCPD office. The Settlement Agreement report will be presented at this meeting.