

MILWAUKEE CHILD WELFARE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
Friday, June 11, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the meeting was conducted by Zoom rather than in-person. The Zoom meeting information was made available on the DCF DMCPD Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council webpage on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>)

Members Present: At the request of Chairperson Michele Bria, a roll call was taken to identify the Partnership Council members present for the meeting.

Present were Ms. Libby Mueller, Ms. Christine Holmes, Mr. Tony Shields, Dr. Mallory O'Brien, Victor Barnett, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Supervisor Patti Logsdon, Bria Grant, Dr. Michele Bria, Senator LaTonya Johnson, Senator Alberta Darling

It was noted that the County did recently have an update so some Supervisors may be having difficulties logging on at this time. Time will be given for everyone to log on.

A quorum of the Council was present on the Zoom meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm on June 11, 2021.

Notice of Meeting – Chairperson Michele Bria reviewed compliance with Open Meetings Law requirements

First, the notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on June 4 and 7, 2021, and in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on June 5, 2021.

Second, the notice was faxed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on June 4, 2021.

The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on June 7, 2021.

Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPD building at

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635 N. 26th St. on June 4, 2021.

This satisfies the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. § 19.84(1)(b).

Review and Approval of Past Minutes, Dr. Michele Bria, Chair

A motion was made by Mr. Tony Shields to approve minutes from March 26, 2021 meeting. Ms. Libby Mueller seconded to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanine B. Settlement Update, Mary Burke, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Children and Families

At the March meeting there were representatives from DCF, DOJ and Children's Rights present and explain that a joint motion for Judicial approval to exit the Settlement Agreement had been filed in February.

The Judge who previously presided over the Settlement Agreement, Judge Rudolph Randa, died a couple of years ago. A new Judge, Chief Judge Pamela Pepper of the Eastern District of Wisconsin, was appointed in his place.

Judge Pepper held a scheduling conference last week on June 2. It should not be inferred from the amount of time it took to get to the scheduling conference that Judge Pepper had any concerns, everything has been delayed by COVID and in Federal court, criminal cases have to take scheduling preference. Judge Pepper complimented all involved on all of the good work with the Settlement Agreement and the fact that all parties agreed to come forward to request the dismissal of the Agreement.

This past Wednesday Judge Pepper issued a Scheduling Order that will govern the exit proceedings including the dates going forward.

An amended version of the summary of proceedings going forward with the Scheduling Order dates in red was emailed to the MCWPC and also shared on screen.

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Different entities under the Scheduling Order, including members of the public, can file things for Judge Pepper's consideration. The filings will be posted on the DCF website so the public can access them.

On September 29, at 1:30pm, Judge Pepper will hold a Hearing in person, but with Zoom access, at the federal courthouse in Milwaukee. There are processes in place for community members that are not parties of the lawsuit to provide input at the hearing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Pepper will decide whether to dismiss the parties Joint Motion to dismiss the Settlement Agreement.

The link to the Scheduling Order and the email address where you can contact Lauren Washington will be posted on the DCF website if anyone has any questions.

Presentation - Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) DMCPs Three-Part Survey Results: Broad Overview, Jeff Cooley, Michael Erato, and Lilia Figueroa, Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

Lilia Figueroa shared a PowerPoint and, along with Jeff Cooley and Michael Erato, presented information on the DMCPs FFPSA three-part survey results.

These are some high-level themes that were identified in the process of gathering information from provider and client perspectives.

Three surveys that were conducted include the Environmental Survey, the Provider Survey, and the Consumer Survey. The surveys were basically the same with a few minor differences in language to facilitate understanding of questions.

The key items of all three surveys are Targeted Outcomes. There are seven main Targeted Outcomes each for Child Well-Being and Adult Well-Being.

A two-question poll was presented to MCWPC attendees:

1. What is the #1 client identified barrier to having kids served in their homes?
 - Lack of social support was the highest polled item.
 - Survey results stated that confusion about the court process was the biggest barrier.

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2. What is the #1 client identified solution to having kids served in their homes?
 - Better communication about what a family can expect when interacting with child welfare was the highest polled item.
 - Survey results stated that having one place to go to get basic needs met would be the best solution.

The findings for part 1 ranked analysis and factor analysis were discussed. The top four Barriers include accessibility, lack of mutual understanding and feelings of being stigmatized, institutional bias, and lack of mental health resources.

The top four Solutions include family-specific service navigation, increased accessibility, community collaboration and communication, and basic needs through center care.

The key findings for part 2, grouped findings split by provider focus, were discussed.

Survey 3, which was sent to clients or community members, was basically the same survey that was sent to providers.

A side-by-side comparison of providers and client answers shows clearly that there is little agreement on the rank order of barrier items.

A side-by-side comparison of providers and client answers shows clearly that there is more relative agreement on the rank order of solution items.

DMCPS has three targeting areas of effort at this time:

- Data and systems change measurement
- Preventing removals
- Family settings, congregate care, and QTRP

State partners at DSP are in the progress of writing the 5-year prevention plan that will be submitted to the feds. This is likely the list of clearing-house programs that will be part of Wisconsin's Prevention Plan. We are continuing to look at opportunities to capitalize our options for accessing federal dollars going forward.

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With the FFPSA there is a heavy emphasis on serving children in their homes, keeping children in their family-like settings, and ensuring that group care can meet the treatment needs of our youth as well as streamlining the work that our staff do so they can spend more time engaging with families and helping them access services through resources they need to be more successful in their parenting.

Dr. Bria thanked DMCPDS, Lilia Figueroa, Jeff Cooley and Mike Erato for their hard work and the succinct presentation of the results to help us move forward.

MCWPC Updates, Dr. Michele Bria, Chair

Dr. Bria's term as chairwoman expires on July 1, this is her last meeting. Dr. Bria has decided to retire when her term with the MCWPC has concluded.

Dr. Bria thanked Sarah Henery and Bridget Chybowski for their incredible leadership, thanked Mary Burke for all of her critical assistance with everything around the Settlement Agreement, and thanked all MCWPC members for their commitment to the children and families of Milwaukee.

There is no current replacement identified but the Governor's and Secretary's offices are striving to have someone appointment by September 24, 2021 meeting.

Sarah Henery thanked Dr. Bria for her service, for being a wonderful partner and engaging Chair and are appreciative for everything she's done for DMCPDS and Milwaukee's children and families.

MCWPC Subcommittees Updates

- Chris Holmes, Health and Education
 - Has not met this last quarter but is setting up a meeting date soon and will report out at the next MCWPC meeting.
 - If there are any health or education topics that the subcommittee should be discussing or examining, please email Christine Holmes, Dr. Michelle Urban or Sarah Henery. The committee is looking to fulfill all the needs of the professionals and the people who work with the system to be sure

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they're providing the MCWPC with the most up-to-date information that they can.

- Chris Holmes thanked Dr. Bria for her service and hard work.
- Sarah Henery, Out-of-Home Care
 - Judge Crivello is out so Sarah Henery is reporting.
 - Committee members are putting together pieces and presentation of information particularly looking at placement stability and placements for older youth, focusing on children 12 years and older and congregate care placements.
 - The last meeting had a presentation from the County Youth Crisis Center and the folks at Bacardi House.
 - The next meeting will be in August. There will be a few presentations looking at programs to support older youth and Lad Lake specific information about their programming and how they can support older youth.
- Libby Mueller, Critical Incident
 - The Critical Incident Subcommittee last met in May. The next two meetings are in September and December where they will review cases that have gone through or are in the midst of the system review process and will talk about the individual cases at that time to decide how to move forward after that.

Community Input, Dr. Michele Bria, Chair

- There was no community input.

Concluding Remarks, Dr. Michele Bria, Chair

- The next MCWPC meeting will be held on September 24, 2021 via Zoom.
- Dr. Bria thanked everyone for their commitment and wished everyone a good weekend and a good summer and reminded everyone to do some self-care.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Willie Johnson and seconded by Chris Holmes.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.