

## **Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council Out-of-Home Care Committee Meeting**

February 4, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes- DRAFT

**Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the meeting was conducted by Zoom rather than in person. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Partnership Council members and other interested persons who receive advance notification of Partnership Council meetings.**

### **Committee Members Present**

Chairperson Judge Laura Crivello

Representative LaTonya Johnson

Supervisor Sequanna Taylor was not able to be present due to being in session. Bri Perez was present as her representative.

### **Notice of Meeting**

The notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on January 28, 2021 and in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on February 2, 2021. Second, the notice was emailed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on January 28, 2021. The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice January 27, 2021. Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPs building at 635 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. on January 29, 2021. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

Because the meeting was conducted by Zoom, the notice included information about how members of the public could connect to the Zoom meeting and how to locate the agenda and other meeting materials posted on the DCF website.

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Chairperson Judge Crivello welcomed people to the meeting. Also appointed to the committee are Supervisor Sequanna Taylor and Representative LaTonya Johnson.

There were approximately 22-24 community members in attendance. It should be noted that Bri Perez appeared as a representative for Supervisor Sequanna Taylor.

Judge Crivello provided information regarding public notice of the meeting to the committee.

### **Review and Approval of Past Minutes, Judge Laura Crivello, Chairperson**

Judge Crivello reviewed that the meeting notes from the 1/7/2021 meeting had been sent out and asked for a motion to approve them. Senator Johnson made motion to approve the notes. Judge Crivello seconded the motion and the minutes were finalized.

### **Committee Member Remarks, Judge Laura Crivello, Chairperson**

Judge Crivello asked Sarah Henery, DMCPs Administrator, to provide an update regarding the Jeanine B. Settlement agreement. Sarah shared that DCF and Children's Rights will be starting the process to file a joint motion to try and be released from the Settlement Agreement. Sarah advised that there would be no changes to the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council as a body to monitor DMCPs accountability. She advised that from a DMCPs lens, the MCWPC would continue for the foreseeable future.

### **Committee Priority, Judge Laura Crivello, Chairperson**

Judge Crivello reviewed the previously proposed committee priorities discussed at the 1/7/2021 meeting

- Topics included:
  - Mental Health Care for Children, Youth, and Families
  - Racial Disparity in Child Welfare
  - Placement Stability
  - Educational Supports
  - Family/Kinship Support

Judge Crivello confirmed with those in attendance that no one had anything to add from these topics.

Judge Crivello explained that based on the feedback from the last Out-of-Home Care Committee the priority for the group would be as follows:

- Priority Outline
  - The target population is youth thirteen years of age and older with multiple out-of-home care placements.
  - The aim is to decrease placement changes and find permanency for those youth.
  - Questions to explore:
    - How do we (as a child welfare system) locate additional family or community resources to aid in finding permanency?
    - How do we (as a child welfare system) offer further supports for families to stay involved?

Judge Crivello asked if anyone was in objection to the outlined priority; there was no one in disagreement. Judge Crivello discussed tasks that will need to be accomplished to work towards accomplishing this aim.

- Tasks
  - Establish Committee's finalized priority
  - Determine who will assist in gathering information for each portion and present to the larger Partnership Council
  - Determine timeline for completing tasks

Judge Crivello proposed presenting at a Partnership Council Meeting in 2021 with the information that is collected as a result of the committees' efforts. She briefly discussed a presentation strategy regarding how the information could be presented to the Council. She

asked the Committee how the information should be presented and who would assist in gathering the information.

Judge Crivello asked Susanna Leggio, Children's Wisconsin – Community Services and Dwayne Marks SaintA to work together to pull agency data regarding the out of home care population with a focus on the different placement types youth are currently in. Judge Crivello made the request that they present this information in 5-6 slides during the next committee meeting.

Libby Mueller asked about children and youth who are dually involved with DYFS. Sarah Henery advised that it is trickier to collect this information as it is not readily available in eWiSACWIS, which is where other placement data would be available. Judge Crivello and Libby Mueller discussed that the systems shows only youth who have filed charges and not those on deferred prosecution agreements. Judge Crivello advised that her staff could pull names of youth and asked if Libby Mueller could look at remaining names. Judge Crivello advised that she would ask DYFS to verify other dually involved youth's placement types. Susanna Leggio indicated that Children's would look internally at their dually involved youth.

The committee then discussed the programs that are currently in place to address youth needs. Judge Crivello asked Oriana Carey to present 3-4 slides with this information. Programs that were mentioned during the meeting were:

- Youth Transitioning to Adulthood (Milwaukee's Transitional Resource Agency)
- Independent Living
- Children's Mobile Crisis Team
- Wraparound
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Kids Matter

The question was posed about what programs exist to address youth in need of stability and to support youth in family placements. Children's shared that there is Family Find to search for potential family members for placement. SaintA has Family Services to serve and support families.

Judge Crivello requested that Oriana Carey include in the slides information about what is being done in other jurisdictions to address the concerns being discussed.

It was also discussed what resources could be offered/provided to kinship/family placements or other licensed placements to ensure they are willing to maintain longer term placement of youth. The following programs were discussed:

- Level 5 Foster Homes
  - The child's home but with shift staff and a manager that is usually foster parent. Typically, with 1-2 children placed in them with round the clock care.
    - Sarah Henery advised it is a very complex and limited placement option. She indicated that DMCPs has not been able to utilize these placement times in a successful way thus far as the Model seems to be for more medically complex children.

- Respite Care
  - Sarah Henery advised that there is another county who used old summer camp on weekends that teens can go
  - Judge Crivello asked Sarah Henery to have someone at DMCPs investigate this
- Youth Stabilization Center—Run out of Bakari Center
  - The committee discussed that Jenna Cruz may be able to come in and give info on this resource
    - Bakari was set up as residential placement for Juvenile Justice involved youth
    - Sarah advised that DMCPs has been in conversation with the facility Bakari as a potential placement resource that DMCPs could utilize.

Oriana Carey asking clarifying questions about including information on innovative ideas for permanency and/or stability. Judge Crivello encouraged her to include any overlapping information and to seek out areas that she feels fit best with the post-permanency stability system. The current practice is that one year from reunification date support is provided.

Judge Crivello shared that Marquette University is creating 40 scholarships with full rides and full residency for city of Milwaukee youth. She discussed that education for former foster youth is also a concern. Susanna Leggio shared that she is on a foster youth education committee but can share information with the committee once she has more information about this.

Susanna Leggio also discussed there are youth at high risk of being trafficked and youth involved in trafficking. It was discussed that this is an important and concerning topic but that it could overwhelm the current focus of follow up. Sarah Henery discussed that there is crossover for these populations and that DMCPs does have a specialized staff that have knowledge for working with these youth. It was also discussed that important to focus broadly as often those youth in non-specialized populations do not get as much attention.

Judge Crivello also mentioned that there are several community organizations looking into the issue of sex trafficking in the community and acknowledge this larger issue as a risk for child welfare involved youth. Representative Johnson advised that she feels it is important to hear more about what we can do for youth who are involved in sex trafficking. Judge Crivello discussed that it could be set as a future priority or second presentation from the committee.

Judge Crivello asked if there was anyone else who would like to be part of presentation at the next meeting. Bria Grant of UniteWI discussed that there is always need everywhere and she is will figure out where her agency information could fit within the current context of the information gather the committee is doing.

Donelle Hauser of Lad Lake shared the following issues for the population served by the Supervised Independent Living Program.

- Housing stability
- Trouble entering the workforce
  - The pandemic has worsened this issue
  - Criminal Records can be an additional barrier

Donelle was asked to provide additional information at the next committee meeting about the needs of youth engaged in Lad Lake's programming.

SaintA shared that there is a YTA grant in pilot form and that they are a Grow with Google Partner. There were also requests to explore disrupted adoptions.

Susanna, Dwayne, Oriana, and Donelle will be presenting information at the next committee meeting. Judge Crivello will reach out to Jenna Cruz. It was determined that further discussion will be had about presenting to the larger partnership Council after the committee has discussions about all of information that will be collected and presented. The committee next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021 at 12:15 p.m.

**Concluding Remarks**

Judge Crivello ended the meeting.

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