

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

January 7, 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

Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

Representative LaTonya Johnson was not able to be present due to being in session. Shannon McCoy was present as her representative.

Notice of Meeting

The notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on December 15, 2020 and in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on January 4, 2021. Second, the notice was emailed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on December 23, 2020. The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice December 14, 2020. Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPD building at 635 N. 26th St. on December 23, 2020. 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 15 community members in attendance. It should be noted that Shannon McCoy appeared as a representative for Representative LaTonya Johnson.

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

Committee Member Remarks

Judge Crivello reviewed how the Out-of-Home Care committee has historically been an inactive committee. She reviewed the mission statement from the Partnership Council Bylaws related to this committee. It is as follows:

“The Out-of-Home Care Committee shall address issues relating to services for children who have been removed from their homes, recruitment, licensing, support and training of Foster care and placement resources. This Committee shall also address issues related to adoption.”

Judge Crivello opened the discussion to other Committee and Community Members.

- Sarah Henery, Administrator, DMCPs
 - Sarah.henery@wisconsin.gov
 - Discussed the coming implementation of The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in Wisconsin. She discussed that for FFPSA there are a few pieces to it and that part of it is related to reimbursement. Sarah discussed that the legislation prevents claiming by states for a lot of congregate care placements that Milwaukee/Wisconsin can currently claim. Sarah advised that it is going to cause a lot of group home placements to not be federally reimbursable. Sarah brought up the concern of where youth will be placed as historically there has not been a large foster parent pool for older youth.
 - Discussed that FFPSA also includes a prevention portion, that could partially address this as it will focus on providing more robust services in the family's home and work to prevent removal into out-of-home care.
 - Discussed the barriers in the African American community due to a lack of trust in the child welfare system.
 - Discussed that coming need to access more relatives for placement and discussed the challenge of locating relatives and supporting them to be successful especially with the older populations of youth in out-of-home care.
- Oriana Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Coalition for Children, Youth & Families
 - ocarey@coalitionforccyf.org
 - Advised that she agreed with Sarah Henery. She advised that her organization tries to advocate behind the scenes for what is needed in the field of child welfare. Oriana advised that another state her organization looked at had more support groups for children, youth, and families and have very successful peer to peer navigators. Discussed the ongoing challenge in Milwaukee of people not trusting systems of care.
 - Discussed ongoing issues they see with older children having school disruptions. Oriana advised that it is a statewide issue that when older children struggle in school it has an impact on the entire family system. She advised that in Group Home settings, school accountability is not always as high and that when youth move to a family setting where accountability is higher this can lead to violence in the home.
- Sequanna Taylor, Milwaukee County Supervisor 2nd District
 - Discussed the need for a mental health continuum of care for children and youth entering out-of-home care. Supervisor Taylor also discussed the need for options for mental health support and mental health transition services for families. She highlighted the need for support of the children and family grouping when the child(ren) move to live in a new environment.
- Libby Mueller, Assistant District Attorney, Milwaukee County Children's Court
 - Elisabeth.mueller@da.wi.gov
 - Suggested picking a population of children or youth and having the committee start there. She gave the example of focusing on children who move frequently, especially as it is already being measured as part of the consent decree. Libby advised that each child is worthy of our attention but feels that the committee

could better serve children and youth by focusing efforts on a small group/population. Expanding on the example she provided, Libby advised that for children and youth (specifically teenagers) with multiple moves the committee could look at similarities in that population and how to address these concerns.

- Susanna Leggio, Director of Family Case Management, Children’s Wisconsin Community Services
 - sleggio@chw.org
 - Discussed that Children’s Wisconsin has looked at their out-of-home care population with a high number of placements as they want to prevent removal and service children in their family system or while they are with kin. She advised that as an agency they are trying to work on moving children out of congregate care as this is also in alignment with FFPSA.
 - Susanna provided the following statistics for their agency’s out-of-home care population of children and youth:
 - Have 100 children in 4+ placements
 - 62% are 13 and older
 - 35% had at least one missing from care episode
 - 46% are in a higher level of care (treatment foster care, group home, assessment center, or residential care)
 - 89% not in a relative or like kin placement
- Kate Angers, Director of Family Case Management Support Services, Children’s Wisconsin Community Services
 - kangers@chw.org
 - Kate discussed the need for more timely permanence for children and families and posed the question of “how do we improve our systems to do that?” She discussed the ASFA standard of reaching an adoption in 24 months and a reunification in 12 months. Kate brought up the concern of how the child welfare systems incorporate lived experience and advised that Children’s is working to incorporate lived experience into their practice more to address several issues.
- Julie Brown, Director, WCWPDS-UW-Milwaukee
 - jrbrown@uwm.edu
 - Advised that previous comments align with discussions they have been having at the Milwaukee Child Welfare Training Partnership especially as it related to older youth in congregate care settings. She advised that they have been discussing what kind of support older youth will need and how the Partnership will be able to adapt their training to support family’s better.
 - Discussed an example with a youth involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice.
- Bianca Shaw, Director of the Office of Urban Development, DCF
 - Bianca.shaw@wisconsin.gov
 - Discussed focusing on stabilizing families as the system encounters them. Bianca advised that we have resources but that they are not working together. She advised that holistic care to the family is the priority to her. She advised that she felt that we need to pay people for their lived experiences and to have them help other families. Bianca discussed the need to think proactively.

- Oriana Carey
 - Provided an example of a family her agency tried to assist and discussed the importance of providing families with support before they leave the child welfare system otherwise, we are at risk of perpetuating the issues family's face.
- Sarah Henery
 - Advised that she believes that the data supports that it is actual children who enter the system at 14 year of age and older who experience more placement moves.
- Julie Brown
 - Discussed the issues of racial disparities/inequity within the population of children placed in out-of-home care and in their patterns to permanency. She discussed how it has long been a shameful aspect of the child welfare system. She felt it would be worthy to explore how to address this (i.e. more skill, dollars, service intensity)
- Sarah Henery
 - Discussed that the issue of racial disparity is something that would be appropriate to address as a full Partnership Council issue. She discussed that there are some data projects with DCF that specifically address racial disparities in child welfare and look at the rates of children in the child welfare system and their outcomes. Sarah gave the example of the high rates of African American children in congregate care setting.
- Judge Crivello
 - Asked committee members to place their name, agency, and email in the chat as well as suggested topics for the committee to focus on in 2021 in the Zoom chat so that the area of the committee's focus could be narrowed down further in future meetings.
 - **Please note the Zoom chat was not able to be saved prior to the meeting ending. If you do not see your suggestion or contact details captured in the meeting notes and would like to have them added please reach out to lauren.washington1@wisconsin.gov to have them added to the meeting notes by Tuesday, February 2, 2021.**

Other Individuals present at the meeting that provided their details in the chat

- Nidhi Khare, Program Director, SaintA
 - nkhare@saint.org
- Lance Jones, CASA Program Director
 - Lance.Jones@kidsmatterinc.org
- Willie Johnson Jr., Milwaukee County Supervisor District 13
 - Willie.Johnson@milwaukeecountywi.go

2021 Committee Meeting Dates

Judge Crivello proposed the next meeting occurred prior to the larger partnership council meeting currently schedule for March 26, 2021. Judge Crivello then proposed meetings in May, August, and October if acceptable with the rest of the committee. The proposed time of future

meetings is 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Judge Crivello proposed meeting the first Thursday of the month.

The committee will have another meeting on February 4, 2021 to discuss the topics of interest that the committee will want to move forward with in 2021.

Lauren Washington will send out calendar holds for the following proposed meeting dates which are subject to change based:

- May 6
- August 5
- October 7

Closing

Judge Crivello ended the meeting.

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