

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council Meeting
Friday July 24, 2020
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Minutes – DRAFT**

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

Notice of Meeting

The notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on July 20, 2020. Second, the notice was faxed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on July 23, 2020. The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on July 20, 2020. Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPD building at 635 N. 26th St. on July 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.

Members Present:

LaTonya Johnson, Laura Crivello, Jessie Rodriguez, Libby Mueller, Tony Shields, Christine Holmes, Patti Logsdon, Jocasta Zamarripa, Willie Johnson, Jr., Mallory O'Brien, Mark Mertens, Jameelah Love, Michelle Bria.

Minutes

Minutes of November 11, 2019 meeting approved.

Presentation of Annual Results of Jeanine B. Settlement Agreement,

Presentation of January -December 2019 Performance Data, Rick Miracola, Bureau of Performance Management

The Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services has been released from 17 of the 18 enforceable provisions of the Settlement Agreement. The only remaining enforceable provision is placement stability. This provision requires that 90 percent of children in foster care have three or fewer placements during the previous six months. Current percent for this reporting period is 89.2.

Response from Plaintiff's Counsel, Eric Thompson

Mr. Thompson divided his response into four areas: safety and stability, performance, reunification and system issues.

Safety and Well Being

Strengths in this area include the fact that we are consistently laying eyes on all kids, medical and dental visits are happening, and health needs are being documented.

The challenge in this area is placement stability. Ten percent of kids in out of home care still experience four or more placements. We need to keep monitoring this. Infants and

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toddlers are still an issue when it comes to placement stability. We need to do better especially for our youngest kids.

Performance

Regarding item 1.B.4 in the Settlement Agreement report, Mr. Thompson opined pointed out that the percentage of children reported is artificially deflated. The number of kids in care is currently just above 2000, not the larger historical number used for settlement reporting purposes, which means the percentage is actually 26 percent.

Reunification

Reunifications is at 49 percent which is down from 2018. We need to keep an eye on reunification and adoption. The sooner adoption/reunification happens the better.

System Issues

Caseload size continues to be an ongoing challenge. Average caseload size is 14.2 kids per worker. As of December 2019, forty-six percent of staff at Children's Wisconsin Community Services (CWCS) had caseloads higher than q5, and at SaintA, the number was eighty percent.

Case manager turnover continues to be a concern. Numbers are going up, and in 2019 the turnover rate was fifty percent- the highest number since 2012. Keeping continuity on cases can be challenging.

Comments – Ongoing Agencies
SaintA, Dwayne Marks

As of June 30, tenure for staff is growing. Staff is staying longer. There have been seventeen resignations year to date for 2020.

SaintA has been looking at its network of providers and how diverse this network is.

Approximately 56 percent of case managers now look like their families.

Children's Wisconsin – Community Services Susanna Leggio

Placement stability continues to be a priority, and we are being creative in how to do this. In 2019, there were 96 placement moves. So far this year, there have been 35 moves.

Working on a culture shift at CWCS and are seeing some success in meeting stability goals. Cases are being looked at individually to help determine why placement issues occur.

DMCPS, Charmian Klyve DMCPS Administrator

In order to improve stability numbers, we need to work carefully and strategically with families who are taking in infants.

Numbers regarding stability have moved substantially over the years.

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It was noted that federal standards are lower than the DMCPs standards related to the settlement agreement.

Turnover is an issue related to placement stability.

DMCPs Report

DMCPs conversation about race and equality.

DMCPs recognizes that we have a lot work to do in this area. Bianca Shaw will be doing training with management staff, and partnership agencies are working on their own plans.

How does the Partnership Council want to be involved in this process? If you are interested in working with DMCPs, contact Charmian Klyve or Bridget Chybowski.

Operations during COVID, Sarah Henery

Most staff have been working remotely. We look forward to being able to be together again.

Families continue to be seen.

Referrals have been down during the pandemic but are starting to pick up. One fourth off statewide intake calls come to us.

Casey Foundation

The Casey foundation will be working with us (DMCPs, Children's Wisconsin and SaintA) to help us with Family First using evidence-based programs to keep kids in the home. We will be working with Bill Stanton and Cara Wood. Implementation of Family First is October 2021. Casey Foundation also has offered to provide technical assistance to the Partnership Council.

Questions/Comments from Partnership Council Members

How are we supporting group homes during COVID? Supplies were distributed to group homes dealing with COVID positive youth.

What about injuries to kids? Are injuries reported more severe in light of the fact that referrals are down.

Lot of clinics were closed. Parents might have taken kids in earlier if health facilities had been available.

How does DMCPs staff turnover compare to Children's Wisconsin and SaintA? Probably around thirty percent. We are doing a little better than we were.

What support/information/resources are families given they take kids into out of home care? Is there some type of written policy? Room for improvement in support given to kinship providers.

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Concluding Remarks

We are working to reinvigorate the Partnership Council committees. Current committees are Health and Education, Critical Incident and Out-of-Home Care. We will be sending out information regarding these committees and asking for Partnership Council members to identify committees on which they would be interested in serving.

Next Partnership Council meeting is September 25. Format to be determined.

Thank you all for your tremendous effort during the pandemic!!

Move to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

DRAFT