

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 18, 2021, from 9:00 – 11:30 am

WebEx Conference Call

➤ Welcome and Roll-Call

- Attendees: Katie Igo (CD), JoDene Bogart (CD), Rachel Bonner (CD), Sally Gaines (CD), Kate Watson (CD), Kim Abbott (OSCA), Laura Malzner (Children's Trust Fund), Jan Leal (Cardinal Glennon), Kayla Ueligger (CD), Teri Armistead (CD), Janet Braker (Missouri Alliance), Nickie Steinhoff (Foster Adopt Coalition), Dr. Bob Prue (UMKC), Kendall Darling (Children's Bureau), Tony Scott (Children's Bureau), Sheila Rancatore (Cornerstones of Care), Lauren Hall (CD), Leanne Reese (MO CASA), Chris Kimsey (CD), Erica Signars (CD), Teresa Hayner (Good Shepard Children and Family Services), Joan Rogers (CD), Clark Peters (University of MO School of Social Work), Shawn Boyd (CD), Katherine Wilson (Community Trust), and Christina Elwood (DHSS).

➤ CFSR Case Review Updates – JoDene Bogart

- Met benchmark for item 2 in most recent quarter. Met Safety Outcome 2.
- Should meet Item 1 this quarter for case reviews. Timely initial contact for seeing children for hotlines. Safety Outcome 1 would then be met. Federal approval and validation is still needed.
- That will leave us with Permanency Outcome 1 to meet. Items 4 and 5. We have until April 30, 2022 to meet the goal.
- Program instruction for CFSR round 4 has come out. Not a lot of detail around when that will happen for MO at this point. Round 4 starts in 2022. In past rounds MO has been in the third wave.
- Round 4 will have states that have penalties being prioritized so they can have as little time between the next round and having to have penalties.

➤ Family First Prevention and Services Act – Implementation Status, Timeframes, Data Collection and Q&A

- Residential Treatment/QRTP – Erica Signars
 - Components will include a shift in requirements of facilities and also a shift in what children will be accepted for residential treatment. There will be a higher

standard required. Agencies will be required to be accredited, trauma model, 24/7 nursing and clinical requirement. Aftercare support will be required post-discharge.

- Implementation in October 2021
 - Engaged with partners for a while and worked on how MO will approach this. Looking at the independent assessor making decisions about placement of children. Have worked to take transitions funds to assist with QRTP readiness.
 - Proposal for QRTP support funds to agencies. Can be used for specific training, cost associated with accreditation, etc.
 - Have set up a communication flow to be able to reach out and get questions answered quickly.
 - Significant issue around QRTP-requirements around accreditation and trauma informed/family –IMD-(Institution for Mental Disease) - certain psychiatric services can be funded or excluded based on law. Issues around bed space based on number of beds available. QRTP wants a small environment and some of the institutions have lots of space. Assessment is wrapping up the process at this time. What percentage of our providers will be qualified is unknown at this time. QRTP and IMD identification is based on size and might cause issues for agencies due to their size.
 - QRTP applications are coming in. Several have been received and questions are being asked.
 - Currently looking at policy and system work to be able to store data, etc. and meet timelines.
 - Some providers don't have trauma certification and that has not been required in the past. Center for Excellence has been providing assessment of providers regarding
- Independent Assessor – Kate Watson
 - Families First requires an independent assessor. In MO trying to refer the right children for treatment and keep kids in family settings. An independent assessment will be conducted on all children entering a treatment setting. Partnering with the Missouri Behavioral Health Council. Trying to partner in a robust way with DMH partners hoping to strengthen children's mental health system in MO overall. Assessors will be based in regions to provide the service. The independent assessors will be employed by the community mental health

centers and one federally funded (Jordan Valley) community mental health center.

- In order for a child to be referred a triggering event must have occurred (FST, YEN referral, court order, etc.). A referral form will be completed and sent to residential screening team. Will review for completion and inclusion of all needed materials. Then the screener will send to the independent assessor. Use of evidence based tool. MO is using the CANS tool (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths). Timeframe for assessors is 14 days. Submit to the court for consideration within 30 days. Approved language by OSCA has been given to courts for the judges to issue findings. Asking the court to consider the assessment and all documentation from the assessor. Asking the court to determine if the needs can be met in a foster home or residential is needed. The court will approve or disapprove the decision of the assessor. At each hearing a decision on the continuation of treatment will be needed. Discharge planning will be required as soon as the child enters the residential system. Extended stay reviews-based on age when additional approval is required for continued stay. QRTP placements will require signoff by regional direction. FSM's will sign off on non QRTP settings.
 - Finalizing policy currently and hope to have it done within the next week.
 - Working on training for residential screeners and internal CD staff.
 - Working with OSCA on training for judiciary and attorneys.
 - Hopeful to utilize training for the staff to send to other team members (JO, CASA, etc.)
 - Children may already be placed during this process due to emergency placements but if it is determined that they will need to stay in residential that will require the independent assessment.
 - Every child placed in residential will have a court order stating they need to be placed in that setting.
 - Children already in residential on October 1st will not need the independent assessment. There will be a requirement for a new independent assessment if the youth will move to a different facility.
- Prevention Services – Lauren Hall and Kayla Ueligger
 - Working on the IV-E pre-print requirements. Due to Children's Bureau soon.

- Prevention-Families First opens the door to things not able to be done before. Thinking forward toward how prevention will look for MO. Meeting with various partners and stakeholders. Submitted the first draft of the prevention plan. Children's Bureau has asked for some edits and those are being worked on. Looking at new treatment options in the clearinghouse that have been added. Plan lays the groundwork for what prevention will look like. Training, caseloads, etc. Framework as a whole on prevention. Identifying services selected off of the clearinghouse. IV-E plan must be approved before the 50% match can be claimed. Thinking about how this fiscally impacts MO. Re-investing savings from residential will allow for provision of prevention services. Startup and sustainability needs to be looked at.
- Legal Representation for Parents – Teri Armistead
 - Children's Bureau has been encouraging states to look at the representation of children and parents.
 - Allowance of IV-E dollars for legal representation. The past year has been working on a plan to be able to support counties to draw down IV-E dollars to pay for representation.
 - Phase 1 initiative looked at attorneys for parents already involved in the child welfare system. Sent notification to five circuits to pilot. Asked for proposals and received back two proposals and one is still working on pieces. Finalized contract is close for two counties. Hope is to refine process over the next year and roll the process out to other circuits.
 - Phase 2 will be looking to ask for data around numbers of children and families at risk and hope to provide assistance for families and children not in care. Custody, landlord issues, etc.
- Updates, Announcements and successes – Committee Members
 - Chris Elwood-All early childhood home visiting services by state agencies will be coming together at the end of the month in the new Office of Childhood in DESE. Other programs as well- childcare regulation and licensure and some Children's Division services. Official start date is August 28th.
- 2022 Meeting Dates – Feb. 16, May 18, Aug. 17, Nov. 16
- Meeting Wrap-up / plan for November meeting (11/17)