

# Missouri CFSR Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2023

Attendees: Katie Igo (CD), JoDene Bogart (CD), Angie Swarnes (CD), Kate Watson (DMH), Casey Figgins (OSCA), Janet Braker (MACF), Claire Terrebonne (Jackson County CASA), Tony Scott (Children's Bureau), Heather Hendley (Capacity Building Center for States), Kyle Kendrick (CD), Leanne Reese (CASA), Julie Starr (CD), and Donna Anthony (Judge 37<sup>th</sup> Circuit).

## Team Charter Discussion:

- Revised recently.
- Section regarding committee purpose:
  - Similar to previous charter. Took out history.
  - Used information provided during last committee meeting to revise charter based upon feedback of committee members.
- Section regarding mission:
  - Used CD mission and outlined it is a collaborative process.
- Section regarding scope of committee responsibilities:
- Section regarding membership:
  - Pared membership down. Feedback was that group was too large.
  - Looking for a case manager and need to check back in with frontline supervisor as she has been on leave.
  - Can bring people in as needed depending on projects or topics of each meeting.
- Section regarding responsibilities of the members:
  - More new language in this section.
  - Bi-directional communication is important.
  - Need to determine if there will be term limits and what that would be. Benefits for both shorter and longer terms. Need to discuss this and what that would look like. Staggering terms so it is not complete turnover at once.
- Section regarding meetings and leadership:
  - Teresa Hayner with Good Shepard has volunteered to be the co-leader.
- Section regarding meeting dates:
  - Proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the months of January, April, July, October.
- Polling Questions:
  - Membership terms:
    - 2 year-29%
    - 3 year-71%

- No term limits-0%
- Scheduling Meetings:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday-0% (Does not work for Judge)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday-29% (Works for Judge)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday-43% (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays do not work for Judge)
  - All of the above-29%
  - None-0%
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (going to start with this) will have to skip July this year due to CFSR.
    - Next meeting will be 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of October.

#### Statewide Assessment (SWA) Discussion:

- Due end of May and was submitted.
- Last week received feedback on systemic factor items
  - 4 areas data showed that CWS is not functioning well
    - Written case plan- Item 20
    - Timely filing of TPR- Item 23
    - Ongoing staff training- Item 27
    - ICPC issues - Item 36
    - Will talk about these in the PIP. Will get a final report from federal partners that will outline for all 36 items whether we are in compliance or out of compliance. They will give overarching themes to focus on in PIP.
  - Strengths
    - Statewide information system- Item 19
    - Permanency hearings- Item 22
    - Foster and adoptive parent training- Item 28
    - Agency responsiveness to community- Items 31 and 32
    - Licensing standards applied equally- Item 33
    - Criminal background check of foster parents- Item 34
  - Remaining 7 Items
    - Federal partners will do stakeholder interviews with a wide variety of groups and some of the topics will be these 7 items to gather input.
    - Information gathered will help make the determination of whether it will be a strength or an area needing improvement.
    - Detailed in chart that was shared.

#### Stakeholder Interviews Discussion:

- List of groups that federal partners will want to speak with. JoDene may reach out for ideas for people to sit on those groups.
- Working on legal/judicial representation (Casey)

- Child counsel, parent counsel, Judges (23 of 48 spots filled at this time)
- Let her know if there are any ideas for participants
- Parents/Youth stakeholder participants needed as well.
  - Group of 10-12 youth or parents (groups would be separate for youth and parents)
  - Anyone that would speak up and feel comfortable
  - Compensations is available
  - Deadline for confirmation? Within 2 weeks but will accept people until the day of.

#### Case Review Data:

- See chart shared for updates.
- Significant issues with parent related items.
- Parent engagement discussion: (Reference Jamboard)
  - What do we see in work regarding parent engagement:
    - More parent engagement when well represented by counsel.
    - More involved parent is in the course of the case the faster the children achieve permanency.
    - Difficult when FSTs are still virtual (Question-Difference in attendance? No other info other than anecdotal-hearings parents attending more with virtual option-data did not support it.) May be same for meetings. Attendance vs. engagement in meetings?
    - When parents begin to be difficult to engage the workers do not do all possible to keep them engaged and continue to provide concerted efforts ongoing to engage.
    - Opportunity at the FIRST meeting for it to be in person- being intentional about when people are in person and getting to know each other.
    - Asking parents to tell us about their kids.
    - Talking with parent about strategies that have worked for them when they had their child with them full time. Make sure they understand the process/acronyms.
  - What are some positive examples of parent engagement strategies that you or the group you represent have seen?
    - Even are professionals virtual- that the parent and caseworker could still be in person, potentially from the parents' home.
    - Virtual options helpful if transportation is a problem.
    - More engagement when parents have positive advocates -- e.g., Grooming Project (nka Pawsperity) or parent mentors I've seen in other states.

- Talk about engagement issues of the family at team meetings. Make ongoing efforts to engage parents when engagement is difficult.
- We (GALs) (used to) try to intentionally meet with parents one-on-one outside of FSTs to humanize each other and learn about their kids directly from them.
- Make ongoing efforts to engage parents when engagement is difficult.
- Keep having the necessary engagement conversations even when engagement with the parent has been difficult.
- Treatment courts- see more engagement.
- In court- ask when the next FST is scheduled and encourages parents to attend.
- What are some challenges or opportunities for improvement around parent engagement?
  - Transportation.
  - Workers not having time/capacity to visit parents.
  - Relationship between the parent and resource provider. How can we encourage that relationship?
  - Lack of mental health services.

Potential Agenda Items for October:

- Parent engagement-the entire team being able to have difficult conversations early on with the parents. So much is focused on CD but it is a child welfare system issue. Keep the court focused and GAL. Focus on reasons for removal vs. getting into the family for one reason and see things that are worries and then piling them onto written service agreements.