MSFCAB December 2024 Meeting

Attendees: Melissa Selsor, Crissy Mayberry, Janice Byrd, Renae Beushausan, Lauren McKinney, Dana Lopez, Rhiannon Franklin, Heather Vodnansky, Craig Stevenson.

10:00 am Welcome and Introductions Dana Lopez

10:10 am Approval of Minutes from September Dana Lopez

10:15 am Data Melissa Selsor

The board discussed the number of foster homes and the need to increase it to 6000. Data on reunification rates and placement to adoption rates was presented, with further analysis needed. The prevention unit's efforts to work more efficiently on preventative care may lead to a decrease in the number of children entering care. The reunification rate may decrease because the children coming into care may have more significant abuse histories. Adoption rates are below the state target of 36.6%, with certain regions, such as St. Louis, experiencing significant backlogs. The 32nd circuit has the largest population and may have more guardianship than other circuits. Guardianship should not be the default option when there is cause for termination.

10:40 am Centralized Calendar Update Melissa Selsor

The ambassador group is working on creating a centralized training calendar. A centralized training calendar is being developed to improve access to training opportunities. It is the hope that the portal would be able to house this. Melissa will share updates moving forward.

10:50 am Regulation Changes Melissa Selsor

* A centralized training calendar is being developed to improve access to training opportunities. The duty to report a missing foster child has been added, and the family support team now determines educational or vocational plans. Reasonable approved status standard added to section nine. Firearm's authorization and training requirement moved to section nine. New access to reliable legal safe transportation includes properly maintained vehicles or public transportation. Updates to the above ground pool rules. Regulations for marijuana use are being updated as well.

11:20 am Recruitment and Retention Feedback Melissa Selsor

Melissa shared they are developing a process to work with agencies to assist in licensing and providing support group and assist with retention. There will be a pretty specific transition plan. This would be multiple contractors. The goal is to develop 800 homes in the next two years. The focus should be on developing specialized homes for elevated needs children, rather than mass numbers of homes. There is a need for clear communication and support during the handoff process for families and licensing workers. Exit surveys should be conducted to gather feedback from families who have quit, potentially as a requirement for closing licenses. Questions were raised about the logistics of guardianship and adoption processes.

11:50 am Advisory Board Updates Dana Lopez

Chrissy and Dana met with a few folks through a zoom call with others that are interested in SW and started meeting in person. It was a great turnout. Chrissy has some sample by laws that she shared with the group and shared some points. STL, KC and Northwest may have regional boards in 2025. In the pass SW had 30 participants from around their area. It is really helpful to be able to pair the local board meetings with the CD CQI meetings. Melissa will see if there is discussion about bringing the CQI meetings back across the state in order for the local boards to have the opportunity to meet with the circuit managers.

12:20 pm Relative Update Joanna San Paolo

New federal regulations allow for the development of licensing standards for relative kinship placement providers. The team has been working on drafting new regulations, revising forms, and training staff and relatives. Pre-service training for relative caregivers is being adjusted to provide a full background of expectations and processes. The training for relative caregivers will be spread out over the first six months to a year after licensing. Staff training will focus on the basics of relative and kinship care, effective communication, and avoiding personal biases. The agency is hopeful that they will receive the necessary feedback and communication to advocate for their needs. The agency is working on licensing unlicensed homes and providing financial support to families in need. Clarify the definition of “in use homes and why relative homes are not being used. 50.4 percent of placements as of August 2024 are with relatives.

1:00 pm Foster Parent Portal Update Melissa Selsor

The foster parent portal is being revised and will include features like requesting staffing and taking the psychotropic med quiz online.

1:15 pm Staffing for Elevated Needs Issues Dana Lopez

There are challenges around staffing meetings and getting them scheduled in a timely manner. The process of requesting staffingmeetings and referrals is not clearly defined or enforced. There is a need for better oversight and accountability to ensure that staffing meetings happen promptly.

1:45 pm Open Forum All

Invite Josh Moore, the director of pharmacy, to a future meeting to discuss pharmaceutical issues and potential solutions.

Conference dates for next year have been set for July and August at the Lodge of Four Seasons.There is a plan to combine conferences in 2026 and possibly move away from the lake.

**2025 Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, March 4th Truman Building Room 500

Tuesday, June 3rd Truman Building Room 500

Tuesday, September 2nd Truman Building Room 500

Tuesday, December 2nd Truman Building Room 500