

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building, Room #315
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65103

March 5, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Jennifer Foster, Judge Tom Frawley, Linda Hosman, Dana Lopez, Michelle Martin Bonner, Melonie McDole, Nickie Steinhoff, Craig Stevenson & Jennifer Townsend

Children's Division Support Staff: Christina Baker, David Kurt, Amy Martin, Sherry Moller, Vicki Stoneberger, Sheila Tannehill & Elizabeth Tattershall

Absent Members: Dr. Steven Archer, Katie Brown, Emily Hymer, Chrissy Mayberry, Sarah White

Guests: Dakota Allen, Deanna Alonso, Sara Bashore, Lacey Dyke, Brigitta Hoskins, Bob Larimer, Elizabeth Lee, Jeremy Milarsky & Julie Murray

Introductions: Chairperson Michelle Martin Bonner welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions.

Updates from the Director's Desk – David Kurt:

- Has been in the field of child welfare for 30 years, started as a prosecutor
 - Not realizing the trauma the youth were facing
 - Balance of what's best for the child and safety
 - Looking at the trauma we cause kids by bringing them into care
- Goal: Safely reduce the number of kids in care & reach permanency as soon as possible
- 5 per 1,000 entering (MO) National average is 3 per 1,000
- Rapid Permanency Reviews (Casey Foundation)
 - Where are the bottlenecks?
 - Hiring permanency attorneys to assist in moving the case along
- Family First – IV Funding for prevention services
 - What is the timeline for prevention?
 - Limit on time we can access Title IV funds – still have to prove reasonable efforts
 - Prevention dollars prior to Families First were from general revenue – these are not new dollars; it's a way to use the dollars differently
 - Prevention has to be Evidence Based Practice, home visiting services
 - When child enters a residential placement, an independent assessment has to be completed within 30 days of placement. The judge has to review within 60 days (residential piece takes effect October 1, 2019)
 - Still figuring out what the assessment tool will be as well as the qualifications of the independent assessor
 - CD working on judicial engagement; Judge Frawley recommended Judicial College to get the word out to judges
- Recruit more resource parents; better support to resource parents
- Reduce number of CA/N reports that are overdue; currently behind on 415 – kids are safe, paperwork is the delay

- Recruiting/Retaining CD staff

Questions for the Director:

- What brings you to this role?
 - Had children of own while working as prosecutor; then attorney for the agency.
 - Missouri is further ahead than Kansas
 - Have to keep kids safe balanced with the effect of trauma on the child
- If you could choose one or two main focuses, what would that be?
 - Prevention; preventing trauma to children, affordable and available mental health and substance abuse treatment
 - Work with the families to get the children back home; new law allows juvenile court to do custody orders (can change custody to non-offending parent)
- What have you learned from the Kansas system and what will be different in Missouri?
 - KS is 100% privatized in foster care system – MO 25% privatized; KS has lower caseloads
- What is the definition of a child in care?
 - Legal custody with the state – placed in alternative care or with a parent
 - Possible to increase number of court ordered services while child is in the home and decrease the number of youth in legal custody
- How will you accomplish reducing the number of youth in care?
 - Achieve permanency as fast as possible; utilizing permanency attorneys
 - Only bringing kids into care that absolutely need to be in care
 - Rapid permanency reviews

Discussion ensued regarding truancy issues – DYS vs. CD issue? Currently there is not a process in place. What do we do with these kids/families? Families with younger children, educational neglect – this is where prevention first will assist most.

Model Foster Home Licensing Standards – Tannehill/Tattershall:

- Issued by Federal Government – will take effect 4-1-2019.
- Missouri is in compliance with standards with traditional licensing standards
- Memo draft – FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT; RESOURCE HOME CAPACITY LIMITS
 - Contact Elizabeth directly with questions/corrections
 - Large Family Resource Homes will no longer exist (8 in the state as of March 1, 2019)
 - 4 exceptions (see memo draft)
 - To allow a parenting youth in FC to remain with the child of the parenting you
 - To allow siblings to remain together
 - To allow a child with an established meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family
 - To allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability
- Memo draft – FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT NATIONAL MODEL FOSTER FAMILY HOME LICENSING STANDARDS – takes effect 4-1-2019. Please provide feedback to Elizabeth by Monday
 - Additional instructions to complete CD 152
 - Home assessment: CW 215 (Medical statement); mental health history for all household members including history of drug or alcohol abuse or treatment
 - Safety requirements for swimming pools
 - Maintenance of first aid supplies

- Resource Parent Acknowledgement and Assurances, CD 108
- No smoking in the presence of youth – prohibited in home and in vehicle; what about relatives?
 - Amy Martin will clarify with federal partners; including “vaping”
- MO will stay 5 – large family resource homes will no longer exist – **UNLESS** family is willing to accept sibling group of 5

Memorandum Updates, Elizabeth Tattershall:

Mrs. Tattershall reminded group that all memos are posted on-line on CD website. The following memos were referenced and discussed:

2018

- CD18-44: Revisions and reminders for children receiving outside income.
- CD18-43: Part-Time Master of Social Work Title IV-E Program

2019

- CD19-08: Revision of Travel Expense Log for Children in Foster Care, CD-106
- CD19-07: Group Residential Individualized Program, Inc.
- CD19-06: Supervisor Support
- CD19-05: Involving Non-Custodial or Non-Resident Parents
- CD19-04: Program Improvement Plan for CFSR Round Three
- CD19-03: Field Support Teams
- CD19-02: Group Residential Individualized Program, Inc.
- CD19-01: Foster Care Maintenance Payments for Eligible Youth Placed with a Parent in a Licensed Residential Family Based Treatment Facility for Substance Use

ESSA-Nickie Steinhoff:

Every Student Succeeds Act: To increase school stability for children/youth in foster care. Youth placed in residential treatment in facilities that have a school program on-site, are attending school on-site. This placement is too restrictive for some youth who should be in a traditional school setting. The opposite is also occurring – when discharged from residential care, there is no educational plan in place, therefore schools are not accepting enrollment.

Lori Masek, CD, is the Program Specialist for ESSA. Nickie will contact Lori directly for additional information and clarification and update the board at the next meeting.

Updates/Modifications Criminal Record- Judge Frawley:

No updates –Have started changing regulations to become compliant to Families First.

When related to criminal offenses: MO will model regulation off federal law; also needs to be statutory change. CD working on a package to change regulations.

Psychotropic Medications/Informed Consent – Judge Frawley:

Is this a work in progress? Have there been any modifications/changes?

Memo draft sent to board, board provided feedback, policy has been enacted.

Working Lunch:

Attorney’s Fees – Kelly Schultz:

453 Adoptions & Post Adoption Contact Agreements – Billable hours exceeding what is allowed. Foster parents being asked prior to court that they owe, and, they are being charged for post ad work w/ birth parent attorney fees; is this an issue across the state or is it isolated? Kelly will address with individual circuit.

Family First State/Regional Implementation Teams – Kelly Schultz:

Regional team: Should be meeting to discuss impact of FF in their own community. Regional teams report up to State Implementation team.

At the Family First convenings there were self-nomination forms to be on either team.

It's not too late to volunteer for a regional team; Amy Martin will take back to Becky Stone and let her know there is interest from the board to participate.

Legislative Updates – Kelly Schultz:

Many bills filed to target Human Trafficking & Educational Safety (background checks for those who volunteer in schools).

SB 88: Putting current GAL standards into statute – with one addition – GAL has to meet w/ child w/in 72 hours of custody.

SB 440: Sen. Brown – defining sibling. Has sib placement preference as number 2. Sibling has to have one parent in common. How does adopted sibling fit into this? MO bill is not that specific, federal definition is more specific.

SB 503: Birth Match: attempt to see if CD had terminated parents' rights before when child is born. What about voluntary TPR?

SB 514: Fix a glitch for former foster youth, over 18, under 26, that lived outside the state for 6 months – continue health coverage.

HB 833: Visitation: Parent custody – if you are ceasing contact with a parent, you have to make a finding as to why you are ceasing – based on safety and well-being issue (not clean UA will not suffice).

HB 437: Requiring CD to make a referral to juvenile office regarding newborn crisis assessment – referral doesn't necessarily mean removal.

CD's budget – governor took out funding for CW Worker 3 & 4 (Rep. Wood – vice chair of budget) put 1.5 million in general revenue to expand home visiting program.

Workgroup Updates:

- Relative Support: Developing a tool for RH as to what has to happen in the first 90 days for licensure – memo being released under Sherry & Elizabeth's name. Sherry working on Kinship Navigator program.
- Older Youth Information: No update
- FFTA- making RH treatment foster homes. Committed to 6-10 cases w/ FCCM agencies that also have a residential contract. John Dickey (Cornerstones of Care) – presenting pilot at national conference and it has been accepted.
- Elevated Needs/Training: Morphed from Large Family Group Home – at this point the workgroup has "disbanded".

National Training Curriculum Pilot – Amy Martin:

Jackson County & Northwest as experimental; St. Louis region as the control. June 11 & 12, meeting with CD in house.

State implementation & infusion team for this project. IDIP – Initial Design & Implementation Plan

2019 – Curriculum development

2020 – Roll out

Regional Updates:

- St. Louis – Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition is celebrating their 30th anniversary this year.

Open Forum:

Jennifer Foster – Requested info to be sent to staff regarding 819 (post adopt contract) educating them on the agreements. Would recommend individuals to speak to their attorney for clarification. Can request CD Legal Department to send something out to staff to not give legal advice.

Kudos to mileage change!

Childcare facilities/training, background checks – still have not received a response; will forward email to Sheila.

Cradles to crayons – Advocacy group for bio parents through the court (?)

Home visiting program – decrease parent aide, increase home visiting program; parent aide contract is currently being amended to include specific services – should not be overlapping w/ home visitation program. Will have a member present at next meeting. MO's program did not meet EBP, therefore MO has to fund (only 9 programs qualify as evidence based). Families First has developed a clearinghouse of evidence based practice.

Nickie Steinhoff – CW Manual – Section 4, Chapter 18, subsection 5

<https://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section4/ch18/sec4ch18sub5.htm>

CW Manual under revision – may have already been updated, need to look at PDF.

Craig Stevenson - 453 Adoption; not explained in STARS curriculum. Suggest STARS session 9 if appropriate in the local circuit. (453 is one motion, dual action).

Dana Lopez – Delay in getting birth certificates; quicker if obtaining directly from Jefferson City. Still discrepancy between CD and contract agency clothing allowance amounts.

Karen Anderson – Change in RH definition was not to be in federal compliance; in MO, legislation was to expand the definition of RH.

Linda Hosman – Finished a class in the NW; family in one county, AD family in another county. State licensed daycare centers cannot meet the needs of the children; Linda will share contact info w/ NW BOD representatives, and refer to them to a family advocate at FAC.

BOD Member telephone numbers and email addresses on website; suggestion to put Family Resource Center contact information including telephone number, on website.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m. by Michelle Martin Bonner

Next Meeting: June 4, 2019

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