

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board
Governor's Office Building
200 Madison Street # 316
Jefferson City, MO 65103
March 13, 2012

Meeting Minutes:

10:00 Introductions

Melinda Nicholson
Kay Byington
Dean Aye
Eric Pilson
Suzie Forbis
Nickie Steinhoff
Lori Ross
Joe Beck
Dawn Caruso
Kelly Schultz
Liz Beasley

Candy Shively
Elizabeth Tattershall

Eric Pilson opens meeting. Introductions.

Eric announces Lois McDonald's resignation. She conveys her heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the team, and she was very proud to serve with us. We will need to address the issue of a Chairman later in the meeting.

Candy Shively.

Budget update. Governor's budget recommendations pretty stable but include 10M to continue providing foster care, due to increased children in care, now at approximately 10,700. Also include 10M for child care subsidy.

Governor included 1.1 M to support Task Force report recommendations, funded by reduction of 28 FTE. Recruitment and retention pilot program likely in an urban locations such as Jackson county and rural clusters such as NW and/or SE Missouri.

One thousand dollars is in the Governor's budget recommendation to establish Foster/Adopt Recruitment and Retention Fund.

House is suggested funding reduction to 75% for foster care to continue. Senate debate continues with discussion on specific program outcomes.

Task Force on Recruitment and Retention:

- Expand service array
- Enhance training and development
- Improve relative and kinship placements
- Recruitment strategies
- Foster/adoptive parents as team members
- Examine rates and compensation
- Streamlining licensing requirements
- Innovative approaches

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- Financing strategies
- Reconstitute Task Force as a workgroup to advance recommendations

Need to ensure that the Board continues to communicate with Task Force workgroups.

Casey Family study regarding increased removals and reduced exits. Why is Missouri experiencing increases in kids in care? Information on study results due in April.

Contracted case management feedback from this group has led to contract review and changes in some areas across the state. Discussion about the performance of contracted agencies, particularly during the caseload re-build process.

With regards to illegal aliens, policy requires that we follow Geneva Conventions. Each case has to be referred to DLS for advice.

Elizabeth Tattershall - review of memos and policy changes

- CD12-01 checklist for supervising visits, CD86
- CD12-02 Healthcare Homes - mental health version (actually a DMH service array)
- CD12-03 emergency preparedness - no policy change
- CD12-06 education stability placement change & credit reports NYTD
- CD12-11 Western Regions hospital plan merge to Healthcare USA
- CD12-15 Federal adoption tax credit eligibility
- CD12-19 Healthcare Homes - physical health version
- CD12-21 transfer of resource homes from contractor to Children's Division, or vice versa (see CWM5.3.10)
- CD12-25 KidsAccount, FACES compliant, what can be purchased
- CD12-26 pre-placement visits on residential must be reviewed by FST prior to visit
- CD12-28 CYAC policy clarification (CWM4.11.F) what can be paid and input in FACES

Nickie Steinhoff - Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

Preparing for COA process in July. "30 days to Family" program outline. Crisis intervention expanded. Educational Advocates on staff that are willing to be a resource for FP's. Still working on Extreme Recruitment, General recruitment, support groups.

Bringing a trauma expert, Bill Steele, April 25, 26, 27, certified training for staff. Will stay on the 28th for informal presentations. Currently called "Trauma Informed Care Workgroup."

Objectives:

- Make staff Trauma Informed
- Professional Development for Staff
- Professional Development for Resource Parents

Lori Ross - Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association

Signing contract to undergo accreditation process. Beginning Extreme Recruitment program, Kansas City area. Emergency Intake and Assessment shelter in Jackson county, probably six to eight weeks out. Program focuses on families new to the 'system'.

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Some open discussion about Board appointments by Governor.

Melinda Nicholson - Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association

ONE Conference joint efforts Tan-Tar-A

Partnership with Children's Division, OCA, MFCAA, and others for statewide conference.

Children's Division has committed scholarship dollars. Registration costs have been significantly reduced.

Kelly Schultz - Office Child Advocate

Significant increase in caseload, over 80 cases/month at the present rate, up from 30/month last year. Issues come to OCA primarily through referrals.

Has been speaking at some support group meetings to raise awareness of OCA area of responsibilities.

Eric Pilson - SW Region

Foster Parent opinion poll - includes contractor review. Survey tool will include data collection capability. Questions about how data and reports should be shared. Eric will email out link to the survey. Need to identify funding to deploy a more robust and effective survey. Suggestion made that survey results could be utilized as a metric for the Board's annual report.

Dean Aye - SE Region

CD114 review - Pre-approval process works well in SE region. Could be streamlined by removing the need for FSM level approval. Regional Director designee could be Circuit Manager/Program Manager for final approval. Pre-approval should not be required, but rather strongly recommended, and training should support Professional Family Development Plan. The Board should provide an appeals process to foster parents who feel their request has been denied or approved with reduced hours unfairly. Lori will draft a policy recommendation for the Board to offer Children's Division.

Transparency and Accountability - need to post the minutes of all future Board meetings publicly. Candy has agreed to allow us to post the minutes on their website. All Board members agree to the need. Minutes must be approved by the full Board (via email) prior to posting.

Eric Pilson - Co-Chair

Conversation about the future structure the Board. Need for a Board Development workgroup. Legislative Action workgroup. Data recording and analysis. Informal email conversations should be conducted over the next 90 days to share ideas. Need to identify what associations and agencies are to be designated with a seat on the Board. Historically we have MiFCAA, MoFCAA, and the FACC. Need to officially include OCA in the new Board.

Need to identify and engage two representatives from each of the traditional seven regions to ensure participation from all areas.

Dean to send out the portion of the statute that outlines Board responsibilities.

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Conversation about the 'sunshine law' aspect of the safe haven law currently passed through the House as a consent bill. Lori to meet with members of Senate to discuss negative aspects of the bill.

Open discussion on Chairman position. Is there a need for an election committee? Position needs to be filled sooner rather than later. In the past we have decided that association members shall not serve as officers. What members qualify as officers? Reviewed existing bylaws, must be member for one year before qualifying for officer. Eric nominates Dean as Chair. Nickie seconds. All in favor, none opposed

This solves the Chairman vacancy, but leaves us without Secretary. Discussion about rotating the responsibility of taking the minutes, tabled.

Motion to adjourn by Melinda, second by Kay. All in favor, none opposed.
Meeting Adjourned.