

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board  
Minutes  
September 10, 2013  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Derek Williams, Dean Aye, Melinda Nicholson, Eric Pilson, Janet Richardson, Kelly Floyd, Nickie Steinhoff, Kelly Schultz, Suzie Forbis and Lori Ross

**Children's Division Support Staff:** Amy Martin, Elizabeth Tattershall, Sarah Bashore

**Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Angie McDonald, Linda Hosman, Eric Charles, Bob Larimer, Kim Pate

**Guest Presenters:** Christine Wynn, Judy Wanko, Deb Fusek

**Introductions/Roll Call:**

At 10:02 a.m. the meeting began with introductions.

**Children's Division Update:**

Amy Martin gave an update on changes occurring in Central Office regarding staff. Emily Montgomery is no longer with the Children's Division; Sarah Bashore will be responsible for adoption subsidy and adoption programs. Marta Halter, Deputy Director, retired, her position remains open. The Recruitment, Licensure/Approval, & Retention of Missouri Resource Homes pilot contract was awarded to Cornerstones of Care September 6<sup>th</sup>. This contract covers the Kansas City metro and northwest regions. There are two new staff overseeing the contract based in Independence, Susan Taylor-Amos and Beth Brooks, who are supervised by Amy. Cornerstones of Care have subcontracted with MFCAA and MBCH.

**Policy Updates:**

Elizabeth gave an overview of new memos.

[CD13-53](#) Introduction to Trauma Webinar

[CD13-55](#) Revisions to Resource Home and Safety Checklist

[CD13-57](#) Introduction to a Medically Based Screening Protocol for the Medical Response to Child Sexual Abuse/Assault

[CD13-58](#) Sibling Administrative Review

[CD13-59](#) Tools to Inform Relatives and Kin

[CD13-69](#) NYTD Surveying Of 17 Year Olds

[CD13-70](#) 2013 Legislative Update and Related Policy Revisions

[CD13-71](#) Resource Family In-Service Training Request, CD-114, Revision

[CD13-74](#) Expanded Medicaid Eligibility for Former Foster Care Youth

[CD13-76](#) Individuals Eligible for Guardianship Subsidy

[CD13-77](#) Emergency Foster Care Services

[CD13-78](#) Re-entry Legislation

[CD13-81](#) Informed Consent

[CD13-83](#) A Collaboration to Strengthen Educational Successes of Children and Youth in Foster Care

### **Open Forum:**

Nickie reported on behalf of Melanie Scheetz. The Task Force on Recruitment, Licensing and Retention of Foster & Adoptive Homes Service Array Workgroup would like to give recognition to foster parents in the Family Connections Newsletter. Deadline to send in nominations was three weeks from the meeting date. The Task Force would like to receive nominations from the board. In the future everyone should bring a name of a family for nomination. Melinda had a nomination and agreed to email Nickie the name. Nickie will bring a card for the family to the next meeting for the board to sign it.

Training-Mental Health Service Providers; David Brodzinsky completed work on: Adoption by lesbians and gay men: A nationwide study of adoption agency policies and practices. With this he developed a more competent adoption survey. The survey will go out to gay/lesbian and adoptive families. Lori will be sending the survey out to her families.

Amy agreed to send the termination of parental rights agreement to the board when finalized with Division of Legal Services.

Dean let the board know he can no longer attend CQI and asked if there would be any volunteers. CQI is the third Thursday of every quarter from 10-3; September, December, March and June. Melinda volunteered.

### **Critical Event Reviews:**

Christine Wynn presented information on critical events to the board. She explained what a critical event was and gave U.S. and MO statistics on events of near fatalities by attempted suicide or death by suicide involving youth. Melinda said she would like copies of the information by email. Christine explained how she had just presented to the Children's Division Executive Staff Team. The focus of discussion was; "What are we doing now/what can we do in the future?" "Are we helping children cope with their loss?"

Discussion on the presentation included:

- Suicide prevention training for youth is a great idea and is very much needed.

- In group living often times the child says something to peers instead of the adult (e.g. suicidal thoughts).
- Training targeting youth in TLPs, ILPs and residential care is important.
- The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) may be able to help with training.
- Training for youth and caregivers at the same time, people need to ask the right questions.
- Information needs to be given to the resource providers and case workers on taking the youth seriously, even when manipulation is suspected.
- Ask the more important, direct questions and training in trauma will help.
- The Department has discussed looking at suicide in foster care through a trauma lens. The child may have been in therapy, but was it the right kind of therapy.
- Most cases reviewed were rural most likely due to failed mental health services.
- Multiple placement changes are a trend in the cases the Office of Child Advocate has reviewed.
- The Foster Parent College has a module on suicidal prevention.
- The new Recruitment and Retention memo trauma informed care is included.
- NAMI has a six week session which is under used. There are chapters throughout the state.

#### Final Comments:

Multiple placements are a concern. Lori suggested a red flag on a case when a child is on their third or fourth move in CD's FACES system. Amy agreed to take this idea back with her. Dean said it would be a good idea to have a board or group to review cases of children who have had multiple numbers of moves while in foster care. Eric felt making the resource provider trauma informed instead of moving the child would be a start. The board further discussed the connections foster children are struggling to keep when being moved so frequently. To further Lori's idea of the red flag, board members felt as though an action plan should be established for those cases with red flags. Board members also expressed their feelings on keeping the previous placement providers as parties to the case to allow the child to keep connections.

#### **Resource Parent Survey: Working Lunch**

Bob Larimer presented on the Resource Parent Survey. Handouts were given to the board members. Bob explained the options of the survey data. Survey Monkey is being used for the survey. Bob agreed to send the PowerPoint out via email. Bob's question to the board was, "does the board want and or need this survey to be more accurate?"

Discussion on the presentation included:

Send a unique link every survey period to each and every foster parent that allows them to do the CD survey one time and one time only. Bob suggested a follow-up survey to those who were dissatisfied. Lori asked the board what exactly they wanted to do with the information gathered; knowing this would determine what data needs to be quantifiable. Derek stated the data should be quantitative; the data would not be helpful to the agencies if numbers are not included. Bob stated to the board that the board would need to decide if the survey should remain the same or change it, including all specifics on how the data is pulled. Lori suggested the board table the issue until next meeting, all members agreed.

### **Missouri Family to Family:**

Judy Wanko, Family Support Coordinator/Autism Navigator with DMH Division of Developmental Disabilities and previous foster parent and Deb Fusek, Family Matters Resource Center, Assistant Director, presented on: *Dreaming the Possible Together: Charting a New LifeCourse*. Judy and Deb handed out folders to the board members. The Missouri Family to Family Affiliate Network is a statewide network of organizations that offer services and supports to individuals with disabilities or special health care needs and their family members. The board members were asked to consider joining the Missouri Family to Family Affiliate Network. They meet quarterly in Kansas City. Missouri Family to Family would like to partner with the Children's Division. Sarah agreed to contact Judy on behalf of the Children's Division. For more information members can go to: [www.mofamilytofamily.org](http://www.mofamilytofamily.org)

### **Resource Parent Confidentiality:**

Derek had questions regarding resource parent confidentiality. He asked why foster parent's information is subject to Missouri's Sunshine Law. This is because resource parents contract with the State and the State must retain the records, which makes the records subject to the Sunshine Law. Families may feel afraid of this law. Dean stated the perception is that records are often requested, when realistically this is a rare occurrence and the Division is not aware of any recent record requests. Eric said the agency should be proactive by training providers during STARS on building bridges with the biological family, relieving some of the fears.

Lori spoke briefly on the finger print delay. She worked closely with a lobbyist on trying to change the finger print process. The process was changed with the 2013 regular session; however, Lori continued to work with the lobbyist to amend the law. The MO State Hwy Patrol has not yet started RAPBACK and Federal RAPBACK is to go live sometime in 2014.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

Dean asked the Board if there was anything further, members said no, he asked for a motion. Derek motioned to adjourn, Kelly F. seconded the motion and all members present were in favor. Motion passed, meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2013, 10a.m.-3p.m. at the Governor's Office Building, room 460, in Jefferson City, MO.