

# Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building  
Room 460  
Jefferson City, Missouri

December 9, 2014  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Member in Attendance:** Karen Anderson, Dean Aye, Susie Forbis, Michelle Martin, Eric Pilson, Derek Williams, Linda Hosman, Kelly Schulz, Lori Ross, Kim Pate

**Children's Division Support Staff:** Amy Martin, Elizabeth Tattershall, Sarah Bashore, Julie Lester, Tim Decker, and Rebecca Rademan

**Absent:** Kelly Floyd, Janet Richardson, Nikki Steinhoff

**Guests:** Dana Lopez, Tammy Woirhaye

## **Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., Dean Aye welcomed the attendees and introductions were made.

## **Accomplishments and Directions: Tim Decker**

Accomplishments:

1. The Walk in Your Shoes project
2. State Youth Advisory Board
3. Youth Summit in St. Louis

The Goals of the Children's Division are:

- to safely reduce the number of children in care,
- decrease the time of permanency (last month we decreased number of children in care by 1)
- increase the health and well-being of our families.

The Children's Division has made the following changes: caseworkers will visit their child in care no matter where the child is located. Caseworkers are informing us that there are positives to the change. The Five Domains of Well Being, along with the film of Rich Hill, is being introduced in Community Conversations scheduled in each CD region.

At the Older Youth Summit, foster youth mentioned how important it is for children to have normalcy. They want to have a feeling of belonging, and they also have to be able to make mistakes. It was also stated that they have a right to be angry. Some voiced that a youth's version of permanency is permanent people in their lives more than a placement.

The Children's Division is working on strengthening front end services, engaging families, and Tim Decker asked the group to assist in changes for the agency to meet those goals. CD has 212 children that could be moved out of residential if we had an appropriate placement for them. Training is being developed around permanency. Trauma Tool Kit training and Secondary Traumatic Stress training for staff will be rolled out at the beginning of 2015.

We want to increase youth participation in the team meetings. Youth feel they should have a say in the decisions that are made concerning them. Tim Decker feels, in some cases, the meeting should not be held without the youth present. The agency will be working towards that goal.

A Health Care Home for Foster Kids model is going to be piloted in St. Louis. (Cardinal Glennon and Washington University) The Board had discussion about how the group felt about the Health Care Home for Foster Kids model. Rural areas may have an issue with the program due to availability. The Board has large concerns about having a coordinator for foster children and allowing them to be making decisions for them about medications for the foster child. Dean Aye wants to know why medication use for foster kids is not discussed at every FST meeting. Karen Anderson reported Dr. Connie Brooks with the Thompson Center on Autism, in Columbia, is opening a clinic /center for foster care children.

Tim Decker asked the board if there was anything that the Children's Division needs to be working on. Dean Ayes responded that getting the courts to work better with us as a partnership would be beneficial. Eric Pilson responded that keeping communication open about what we are working on is important. Tammy Woirhaye responded that working on decreasing the turnover of staff would be a large help to reaching our set goals. Julie Lester informed the group of Scott Montgomery's new position for Recruitment and Retention of staff. Julie Lester mentioned the next stage of the Ipad roll out will be next week with 511 iPads being rolled out to staff. The Board had a discussion concerning the Ipad roll out.

Recognition for Eric Pilson's time on the board, since 2007, was made with a speech from Lori Ross and a framed certificate of appreciation from the Children's Division.

#### **ACRB update: Group Discussion**

The work group for Alternative Care Review Board process met October 2014. An overview of the new procedure and policy was presented. A mediator (trained staff from another area) will come in to facilitate the FST or Adoption Staffing if a request for a review is submitted. The workgroup is working on the current draft which will be shared with board upon completion.

#### **Large Family Foster Home Update: Group Discussion**

The workgroup met September 26, 2014 to draft policy. An overview of the new policy on the Large Family Foster Resource Homes was presented.

#### **Caregiver Court Report: Kelly Schultz and Julie Lester**

The Board will be reviewing the Caregiver form to see if the form is effective and useful. The form is not a Children's Division form. Dean Aye believes the Children's Division should adopt the form. Kelly Schultz proposed a subcommittee to revise the Caregiver form. Lori Ross agreed. Lori Ross also felt that there needs to be training for the families on how to fill out the form. Discussion was held how the form should be utilized and drafted. Dean Aye also agreed there needs to be a subcommittee.

Subcommittee: Lori Ross, Michelle Martin, Dana Lopez, Karen Anderson, Julie Lester, Amy Martin and Dean Aye. Dean asked Amy Martin to setup the meeting and notify the group.

#### **Foster Youth Clothing Allowances: Amy Martin**

Suggestion provided at the Older Youth Summit, by youth, include they feel there is no normalcy in shopping for clothing. In response a group has been established to review ways to make the clothing allowance easier for the youth and foster parents to utilize the allowance.

The board is concerned about placement changes, runaways and how the payment will follow the child with these issues. The Board agreed the Foster Youth Clothing Allowance should be left alone for younger ages and review Older Youth options.

**Faith-Based Outreach opportunity: Amy Martin**

Amy Martin discussed the Care Portal she learned about in her trip to Texas. The Care Portal is a notice posted on the internet for needs of families in the area. The message goes out to local churches and other community members. The Global Orphan project is being brought to Jackson County in January 2015. The second part of the project is called The Keep. The Keep sponsors Foster and Adoption families.

**Policy Updates: Elizabeth Tattershall**

Elizabeth Tattershall passed out handouts for Key Child Welfare Indicators for Child Safety. Elizabeth Tattershall also reviewed the Memorandum about Relative and Kinship Home Assessment Recording Outline and the Medical Services Authorization Information Letter.

**Open Forum**

Lori Ross has a policy suggestion: All OHI reports should go to the licensing contractor in order to have each incident or concern be reviewed to insure quality of care and safety of children

Kim Pate raised \$2500.00 for foster children's Christmas funds to hand out gifts to the children.

Derek Williams asked about Children's Division staff being Foster/Adoption parents. Amy Martin drafted a policy revision about staff being foster parents. Amy Martin took the information to the Exec team. There were several concerns discussed. The policy revision is on hold at this time, with research being conducted on other state practices.

Kelly Schultz stated the Office of Child Advocates has brought on a contractor to help with the backlog of cases due to their increased caseload.

Linda Hosman brought a constituent matter to the table in the Jackson County area. Amy Martin will be looking into the matter.

Eric Pilson mentioned bring Chaffee back to the table. Request Sally Gaines to present on Chafee at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**            March 10, 2015  
                                      10am to 3pm  
                                      GOB #460  
                                      Jefferson City, MO 65103