

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building
Room 460
Jefferson City, Missouri

March 10, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Member in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Dean Aye, Kelly Floyd, Michelle Martin, Janet Richardson, Nikki Steinhoff, Derek Williams, Linda Hosman, Kelly Schulz,

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

Absent: Susie Forbis, Lori Ross, Kim Pate

Guests: Dana Lopez, Lisa Engelhardt

Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., Dean Aye welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Dean Aye thanked everyone for their time and dedication.

From The Desk of the Director: Tim Decker

Community Conversations have been held throughout the State of Missouri covering The Five Domains of Well Being. Rich Hill was shown at each Community Conversation, it is a documentary that covered the lives of three boys in Rich Hill, Missouri and how the aspects of The Five Domains of Well Being program can be applied in the boy's lives. Kelly Schultz informed the group that the Rich Hill documentary has prompted some copycat documentary with a child in State Care.

Trauma focused work has become an important part of our Division. In the next year we are planning on rolling out the Child Welfare Trauma Tool Kit training for all field staff. We are looking for employees that are passionate about the agency becoming trauma-informed and will be forming a central office trauma team to be followed by the creation of Circuit based teams.

The MOST initiative is in the House budget for the agency. Previous concerns noted by the MSFCAB were the time it will take for the foster families to comply and the time it will take away from the normal routine life of the family. Tim Decker informed that if the MOST initiative goes forward we will build around the family times and work towards fitting the training into the life of the family.

Linda Hosman commented that her agency has a contract with the MFCAA for training with families a lot like the MOST initiative. The outcome thus far has been positive.

Tim Decker discussed the concept of Health Homes and the philosophy of coordinated healthcare for foster children. Dana Lopez inquired if they are a requirement or if they are optional use. Tim Decker said they would be strongly recommended in areas where implemented. There will be much more to come on this.

The Secondary Traumatic Stress Contract will be awarded in the next couple weeks.

Mobility Project: 500 iPads are in the hands of workers and the apps are being utilized.

CD Investigation training with Kids First is being moved forward, there is a training once a month.

Derek Williams inquired about the standing on the recruitment pilot and the recruitment pilot contract. Julie Lester informed him that the contract is being evaluated and reviewed and the pilot will be on going. The group was informed that any feedback should be sent to Amy Martin. Amy Martin gave some feedback on how the pilot started and the issues that are being ironed out and worked through. We are recruiting foster families in the pilot area and reviewing the support the families are receiving.

Open Forum: All Members

Dana Lopez: In her region they held a meeting with about 50 people to receive feedback on how to meet the needs of resource homes and the support they may need. They are reviewing the information and hope to have an interface for the families in the coming months.

Janet Richardson: Are there statistics on failed adoptions? Amy Martin will provide the information for Janet. Janet Richardson gave background information on the request. The Division will be looking in to the situation

Linda Hosman: There are issues within Buchanan County and Platte County regarding adoption staffings. Julie Lester informed the group that adoption staffing policy is standard for all circuits and individual concerns should be addressed with local management. Central office staff members (Sarah Bashore, Amy Martin and Julie Lester) are happy to assist with this discussion.

Michelle Martin: The resource training was not up to the expectation that Michelle expected. The city training was held with negativity and the lack of happiness, while training in the county was upbeat and informative. St. Louis County has been contracting with individual contractors while St. Louis City has not been. The training information needs to be publicized to provide opportunities for training. The trainers may need enhanced training skills.

Michelle Martin: Where are we with upfront support for preventing children coming in to care? Julie Lester briefed the group about the Family-Centered Services workgroup and the status of the workgroup. The development of engaging families and bring the child's prospective are focus points for the group.

Nickie Steinhoff: Nothing

Kelly Floyd: Nothing

Kelly Schultz: Children's Trust Fund is having a Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention conference April 14-15, 2015. Consider shifting our quarterly meetings to different months. The group responded this group would be very difficult to change due to the local support group's quarterly meetings.

Karen Anderson: Questioned about options for daycare. Amy Martin stated that we will have an Early Childhood representative attend the next meeting with time on the agenda.

Lisa: Nothing.

Caregiver Court Report update: Dean Aye

The Caregiver court form is currently being reviewed by Office of States Court legal department.

Large Family Resource Home Training: Elizabeth Tattershall

The training power point draft was presented to the group. Dana Lopez requested the definition of LFRH should be added to the first slide. Kelly Floyd questioned if the training will be on-line or face to face,

Elizabeth Tattershall commented that the training will be both on-line and face-to-face. If completed on-line the foster parent completes a one (1) hour face to face with their worker. Dean Aye suggested Elizabeth Tattershall complete the final draft and then present to the board. Any questions or concerns please send Elizabeth an email as soon as possible.

Health & Safety – second hand smoke: Julie Lester

Julie Lester briefed the board on protecting foster/resource family children from secondhand smoke in homes and cars. A handout was given out. Elizabeth Tattershall gave some statistics covering other state's laws and policies. The board discussed the pros and cons. The board determined that a policy change with recommendations would be better than a law.

AD/FST decision review update: Julie Lester

A draft was provided for the group concerning Family Support Team and Adoption Staffing Decision Review. A group discussion was held about the draft along with suggested changes.

Legislative Updates: Kelly Schultz

Legislative bills reviewed that focus on child welfare. A handout was provided

Annual Report: Michelle Martin

Michelle Martin went over the Annual Report expectations and the data needed for the report. Dean Aye asked for volunteers to be on the group of developing the annual report. Nickie Steinhoff, Michelle Martin and Kelly Floyd will be working on the annual report with a rough draft due by June 9, 2015. Elizabeth Tattershall will provide data.

Recruitment and Licensing Update: Amy Martin

Amy Martin went over some changes and new tasks that the Division is working on for Recruitment and Licensing. We have more children with relatives than with unrelated placement. We are updating the Heart Gallery to have the kids that are waiting the longest without placement to be put on the Website first. Global Orphan faith-based project is very invested in doing the Care Portal in Jackson County as well as getting the community involved. Janet Richardson questioned how churches can get involved with Global Orphan project. Amy Martin has the information to contact Tate Williams with Global Orphan project.

Medical Checks: Amy Martin

Amy Martin asked the group if a respite provider should have a medical background check to provide respite care. A group discussion concluded that a respite provider does not need to have a medical check to provide respite.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2015
10am to 3pm
GOB #460
Jefferson City, MO 65103