

## Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building  
Room 460  
Jefferson City, Missouri

September 8, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Member in Attendance:** Karen Anderson, Kelly Floyd, Suzie Forbis, Michelle Martin, Lori Ross, Nikkie Steinhoff, Derek Williams, Linda Hosman, Kelly Schultz,

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

**Absent:** Janet Richardson,

**Guests:** Dana Lopez, Andy Flynn, Larry Lambert, Dawn Caruso, Krissy Mayberry, DeAnna Alonso, Shauna Balk

### **Introductions: Michelle Martin**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Michelle Martin welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Michelle Martin went over the need for an appointment of the Chair for the board with the resignation of Dean Aye. Michelle Martin passed out the 2014 annual report and requested volunteers for 2015 annual report.

### **Policy updates: Elizabeth Tattershall**

The following policy updates were provided by Elizabeth Tattershall:

SB341 Modified provisions of law relating to the protection of children and other vulnerable persons

CD15-48 Missouri Automated Criminal History System Access

CD15-52 Senate Bill 341, Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors

### **From the Desk of the Director-Tim Decker**

Tim Decker announced the resignation of Dean Aye and went over how grateful he was for the services of Dean Aye; he also thanked Michelle Martin for chairing the meeting. Tim Decker went over the new Federal and State Legislation of the Reasonable & Prudent Parenting Standards (House Resolution 4980). The Reasonable & Prudent Parenting standard requires a reasonable and prudent parent be identified to make reasonable decisions for a child. (i.e. going to prom, spending the night at a friend's house, attending a date etc.) Part three of the law allows for foster youth 14 years and older to be allowed to appoint individuals to assist them on their plan. The agency requested an extension on the law to develop new policy and practice guidelines. The agency will also be asking for assistance from the board in developing the policy to help support the Federal law. Culture, training and practice of the agency and community will also be closely looked at when reviewing and developing the policy.

The Signs of Safety practice model is being rolled out in Jackson County. Implementation is ongoing at this time. There continues to be learning labs for staff and refresher courses for supervisors.

Kelly Schultz would like to know more about the new Signs of Safety Model for reviewing cases. Julie Lester suggested Kelly Schultz speak to Tanya Keys, Regional Director in Jackson county or herself to learn more.

Derek Williams stated that the Buchanan County court does not remove children in the volume like his county of residence. Tim Decker acknowledged that this is something he has heard before.

### **Federal and State Legislation of the Reasonable & Prudent Parenting Standards-Megan Dittmann**

State legislation language will be similar to the federal law. Some specific components to be addressed include; who is the reasonable and prudent parent? Is it just the foster parent; and older youth advocates, in the community, who they can turn to for support. The specified advocate would not be a party to the case; this individual would be someone who can be invited to the Family Support Team meeting. One of the changes to the new legislation is to APPLA (Another Permanency Plan Living Arrangement). This change sets an age minimum of 16 to have the APPLA goal. Children younger should have a different goal, such as adoption or guardianship. Examples of Reasonable and Prudent Parenting standards to be reviewed will include; taking children on vacation across the state line, or registering the child in activities when the child is getting close to going home.

Lori Ross stated national advocates are looking at eliminating APPLA altogether. CD has reached out to DMH to discuss waiver children with the goal of APPLA who are under 16. Lori Ross shared with the Board that providing adoptive parents with the education and services they need for those children with high need is a huge barrier and one that is not easily solved.

Kelly Schultz, OCA, is very excited about the proposed changes and plans to help advocate by sharing the federal law with legislators. Collaborative outreach will take place.

Discussion with the courts, juvenile officers and GAL was suggested by Dana Lopez.

Michelle Martin suggested making this change in law into a Continued Legal Education (CLE) training credit for attorneys.

Elizabeth Tattershall will add the federal summary of the law to the Board's website to be shared.

### **Resource Parent Survey Results to the Question How Do You Provide Normalcy for Foster Youth Placed in Your Home-Sarah Bashore**

Sarah Bashore shared the results and will send them out to the Board.

### **Working Lunch:**

### **New TPR Forms & Successor Guardian-Sarah Bashore**

Michelle Martin suggested adding mental health capacity to the TPR consent forms. CD agreed to take back for review. Sarah Bashore explained successor guardian. Language has been added to the Guardianship Subsidy Agreement form CD-SG, the instructions, and policy. At the time of initial negotiation of the agreement as well as at time of renegotiation, staff will need to discuss and encourage the guardian(s) to exercise the option to name a successor guardian in the agreement or amendment. If the guardian(s) dies or is incapacitated and a successor guardian is not named in the agreement, the child may not be eligible to receive guardianship assistance payments in a subsequent guardianship.

### **Supporting Youth in Making Healthy Choices & Second Hand Smoke Policy-Elizabeth Tattershall**

#### **Making Healthy Choices:**

In-service training policy will have a link to the new Making Healthy Choices material. This additional required reading resource will be included in the one hour training resource parents currently receive for reading the foster youth's guide. Elizabeth Tattershall passed around the memo and policy revisions as a refresher to the Board. Nikkie Steinhoff let the Board know there has been an extension of materials shared by a local pharmacist in regards to psych drugs that has been given to resource parents in St. Louis.

Kelly Schultz motioned to approve Supporting Youth in Making Healthy Choices memo and policy, Derek Williams seconded, all members present agreed, the motion passed.

#### **Health Homes:**

The Healthcare Coordination Committee is still in place and the Division is actively involved. Dr. Lane Young-Walker is available to help in very specific cases, however, the Division is still pursuing a position for a State employed pediatrician. How to stair-step children down from medications is a need of resource parents. Resource parents need training on what to ask while at the appointment with the physician.

As a part of the Health Homes pilot project, children 0-12 are going to Cardinal Glennon, 13 and up to the Spot, affiliated with Washington University in St. Louis for initial medical exams as well as 30-day follow up appointments. All the children are going to the same facility; Nikkie Steinhoff has heard good things with this pilot. The only concern is the capacity of the facilities to accept children.

#### **Protecting Foster Youth from Secondhand Smoke Exposure:**

Elizabeth Tattershall clarified with the Board that the memo and policy are not to tell resource parents that they cannot smoke, just that they should not expose the child(ren) to second hand smoke. Kelly Schultz had concerns that these changes will be used to deny relative providers of placement. Karen Anderson reviewed the memo and policy with her resource parent support group. Concerns were that the foster parent's license will be revoked if there has been exposure, or what would the provider do if the foster child smokes. Michelle Martin and Nikkie Steinhoff took the changes to over 150 resource providers and a majority of the providers had concerns including; if the biological family smokes and continues to smoke during visits and when the child returns home. Lori Ross suggested a training or video on the dangers of second hand smoke for resource parents to watch prior to licensure or to address the topic of second home smoke

exposure during STARS training. The language could also be added to the Hazardous Materials form. Elizabeth Tattershall will draft a new memo and policy to send out to the Board with the suggestions made during the meeting.

### **Legislative Updates-Kelly Schultz**

SB341-Report of youth with problem sexual behaviors are now handled as a Family Assessments (under age 14)). Non-Caretaker still involves youth age 14 and up. There could be an OHI and specialized worker working on an assessment at the same time involving resource parents. Children's Division received five allocations to the field for this work.

Flyers (English and Spanish) have been available to all schools for posting in school restrooms. The number, 844-CAN-TELL, is intended as a way for youth to report to the hotline concerns of child abuse and neglect.

Kelly Schultz will be attending a round table discussion in regards to the role of Juvenile Officers.

Lori Ross passed around West Virginia's Help phone app- This application contains a list of services available by county, used by community resource providers. She would like to create a similar app for resource providers and then a separate app for foster youth, listing the resources by topic. United Way 211 app is one that the Board could piggyback on. Board will research more on this application idea and discuss at a later meeting.

The updated Caregiver Report form is going back to the Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP) Committee for review. The Juvenile Standards Workgroup continues to meet.

Derek Williams suggested Board members attend State Youth Advisory Board. Derek Williams asked for an update on recruitment and retention pilot. A meeting of the workgroup is scheduled in October. Update about the pilot will be put on the Board's December meeting agenda.

Michelle Martin asked for a sub-committee for the 2016 annual report. Kelly Floyd, Nikkie Steinhoff, and Shawna Bulk volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

### **Other Business:**

Karen Anderson nominated and motioned for Michelle Martin to become Chair of the Board, Nikkie Steinhoff seconded the motion, all present agreed, motion passed. Michelle Martin asked if anyone was interested in co-chair. Kelly Schultz, motioned Derek Williams as co-chair of the Board, Karen Anderson seconded the motion, all agreed, motion passed.

Dean Aye was on the RPC Expansion committee, there is a need of replacement. Linda Hosman and DeAnna Alonso agreed to attend meetings. Dean Aye was also on CQI, Karen Anderson will attend those meetings, Michelle Martin will be backup. Julie Lester will contact Kim Abbott about JCIP and how Dean Aye should be replaced if his position needs to be.

Michelle Martin reminded Board of the November 10, 2015, Special Legislative Discussion meeting. Meeting is from 10-3, Governor Office Building room 470.

Michelle Martin brought the meeting to a close. Derek Williams motioned to adjourn, Kelly Schultz seconded. All present agreed, motion passed.  
Meeting Adjourn at 2:48 pm.

**Next Meeting:** December 8, 2015  
10am to 3pm  
GOB # 460  
Jefferson City, MO 65103

**Special Meeting:** November 10, 2015  
10am to 3pm  
GOB # 470  
Jefferson City, MO 65103