

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board
Governor's Office Building
Room 460
Jefferson City, Missouri
December 8, 2015

Member in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Michelle Martin, Lori Ross, Nikki Steinhoff, Derek Williams, Linda Hosman, Kelly Schultz, Kim Pate

Children's Division Support Staff: Julie Lester, Elizabeth Tattershall, Tim Decker, Rebecca Rademan, Sarah Bashore, Amy Martin, Megan Dittmann, Ellen Haynes, Tricia Phillips

Absent: Kelly Floyd, Dana Lopez

Guests: Ben Bulk, Crissy Mayberry, Nathan Ross

Introductions: Michelle Martin

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Michelle Martin welcomed the attendees and introductions were made.

From the Desk of the Director: Tim Decker

Tim Decker provided updates on the Division initiatives including the Five Domains of Well Being roll out and the Signs of Safety training and implementation.

The Children's Division supports current efforts underway to develop Foster Children's Bill of Rights language for proposed legislation. The Division is hopeful to have legislation address the new federal legislation HR 4980 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families act.

Tim Decker expressed his enthusiasm for new promising programs such as Health Care Homes, and the expansion of the Behavioral Interventionist.

Tim Decker discussed the new federal and proposed 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 foster child. Tim Decker queried the group to question whether Children's Division should implement policy to comply with House Resolution 4980 or if the division should wait for state legislation to be passed. A group discussion was held about the implementation of the policy and law. The board feels the Division should begin rolling out the new policy and practices that will affect Resource Parents. They would like a point person to be able to respond to questions about how the law is applied. This will be a journey for Resource Parents and Children's Division staff.

Decker stated announcing the new process may be the way to go so it allows families to prepare for the new process. Tim Decker went over ideas for the information to get out to the communities. The Board made suggestions of community conversations around the state and webinars. Ben Balk suggested social media be utilized to inform families as well as Facebook. Julie Lester requested members of the board to

create a group to develop a process for social media information. Ben Balk, Derek William, Karen Anderson and Christy Mayberry volunteered.

The board had a discussion about social media policies that are in place to prevent foster parents from posting photos or information on Facebook. The group discussed keeping the Board's Facebook page up-to-date, it needs daily monitoring.

Update CS-11 for Level A Providers: Elizabeth Tattershall

Elizabeth Tattershall went over coming policy revision to eliminate the CS-11 for level A. The changes will be covered in an upcoming Policy Memo call December 11, 2015. Letters will be sent out to notify the Level A providers.

Foster Children's Bill of Rights: Nathan Ross

Michelle Martin introduced Nathan Ross from MFCOA, who has drafted a Foster Children's Bill of Rights. Nathan Ross provided copies to the Board. Nathan Ross provided an overview of the background of the bill of rights. It is addressing permanency, normalcy and use of psychotropic medications. Nathan Ross indicated that there are changes still to come on the draft and the information will be sent to the board at a later time. Kelly Schultz requested to add language for covering the children from losing their voice because attending their FST's and or TDM's is not always available to them. Tricia Phillips also questioned the language around the child's right to choose to attend. Ben Balk questioned the age requirement. Nathan Ross indicated the age requirement was already set in legislation. Nathan Ross requested the board review the information and email him with any changes of the document. Tim Decker thanked Nathan Ross for his work on the Foster Children's Bill of Rights and his leadership. Nathan Ross encouraged the members to have youth provide ideas and support.

Foster Parents as Parties to the Case (HB 556): Lori Ross

Lori Ross provided an overview of the intent of the language added to last year's House Bill 556: "foster parents as parties to the case" as well as examples of the reasoning behind the language. Lori Ross indicated she will be moving forward with her support for this language during the upcoming legislative session.

Ellen Haynes provided case law that would caution the proceeding of this effort. Lori Ross requested the cases that Ellen Haynes cited to be provided to her.

Lori Ross asked that if there are concerns from board members that they bring them to the table.

Nikki Steinhoff and Kelly Schultz provided their opposition to the language. Derek Williams provided input that the Board should support the bill.

Tim Decker reminded the members that the Board is not required to support the bill.

Lori Ross indicated her understanding of the concerns brought to the table. Lori Ross feels the bill will open an opportunity for the foster parents to have one more option to assist them in court proceedings.

Michelle Martin encourages the board to have discussions outside the meetings.

Working Lunch

Group discussion was continued on with the agenda topics

Legal Aspects Trainer: Julie Lester

Julie Lester requested feedback from the Board about training about legal issues. There was a group discussion. Ellen Haynes, Legal Aspects Trainer will work on developing, training and support.

Lori Ross informed the Board about a program out of Kansas called Children in Need of Care 101 (CINC 101). The program supports and trains families on the court proceedings.

Nikki Steinhoff indicated that copies of court order documents would be helpful to families.

Lori Ross inquired about training for resource parents about their role in court. (Event similar to a walk in your shoes)

Tim Decker inquired if the Children's Division staff is trained on how to prepare children for court. Tricia Phillips concluded that currently there is not training for this. Tricia Phillips indicated that working with current trainings the information can be added. Julie Lester reminded the group there is a document given to Older Youth, What's It All About, which gives a brief explanation of what youth can expect in court.

Legislative Updates: Kelly Schultz

Kelly Schultz informed the board about the current pre-filed bills.

Looking Forward to 2016: Michelle Martin

Michelle Martin is asking the Board to be more focused and organized for 2016. Michelle Martin would like to see the Board be more effective and would like to accomplish some set goals.

Michelle Martin plans to establish job descriptions for each officer position on the Board. Elizabeth Tattershall suggested that Michelle Martin should also provide a job description for all the members.

Kelly Schultz would like to see the board work on maintaining connections and the education of children in residential treatment.

Derek Williams indicated that he feels the Board needs to be more visible. The Board had a conversation that Regional Resource Advisory Parent Board meetings are a way to have concerns brought to the State Board. Tim Decker indicated that the Board members could have listening sessions in their respective areas. The Division would help support the sessions.

The Board will be working on the needs of each region.

Tim Decker asked about the board's priorities and what they want to accomplish with the listening sessions. Lori Ross indicated it will be a great opportunity to provide support, information and training. Tim Decker indicated the idea of the listening sessions is a wonderful idea

Julie Lester informed the board that the March meeting will be Five Domains of Well Being training.

Michelle Martin provided a recap of the goals set for 2016. Michelle Martin listed the following goals:

1. Be a resource
2. Make the Boards presence known
3. Work towards a common goal

Open Forum: All Members

The Board members had a discussion about upcoming event, things happening in their areas and issues on which they are working. Amy Martin provided an overview of the Retention and Recruitment update.

Derek Williams made a motion to endorse the language Lori Ross is proposing for Resource parents to become parties to a case. Michelle Martin seconded. In discussion, Kelly Schultz, pointed out that she would feel better endorsing the Foster Children's Bill of Rights when all members agree. Not all members agree with the language for Resource Parents at this time. Lori Ross requested to table the topic at this time until more research can be done. Derek Williams withdrew the motion. Topic will be added to the March meeting agenda.

Derek Williams made a motion to endorse the Foster Children's Bill of Rights. Karen Anderson seconded. All present board members voted in agreement. Motion passed.

Nikki Steinhoff gave an overview on the 30-Days to Family program. Nikki Steinhoff will provide more information to come. Tim Decker encouraged the board to support and encourage programs like 30-Days to Family.

Michelle Martin inquired about rollover training hours. Amy Martin indicated that it is part of regulation and law. The topic had been raised in previous years and Lori Ross was going to revisit it to see why rollover is not an option. Other professions, for example lawyers are allowed to rollover continuing education hours.

Discussion was held on training topics.

Lori Ross indicated 200-300 children's cases in Jackson County have been lingering with no permanency established. Permanency for these children could now be at risk. Lori Ross announced a national organization, ATTACH is coming to St. Louis for their national conference in September 2016. MFCAA will not conduct the One Conference in 2016 and support the ATTACH conference.

Karen Anderson inquired about the terms of the member of the board. Elizabeth Tattershall gave an overview and will look into the terms of each member. Elizabeth Tattershall will provide feedback.

Karen Anderson inquired about a Facebook post that she will bring more information to the group.

Linda Hosman pointed out issues with training availability in certain areas. Children's Division will be looking in to the issues with training in local areas.

Adjourn

Michelle Martin brought the meeting to a close. Derek Williams moved to adjourn, Linda Hosman seconded. All present agreed

Motion passed Meeting adjourn at 3:05

Next Meeting:

March 8, 2016
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
GOB #460
Jefferson City, MO 65103

Future Meeting Dates:

June 7, 2016-GOB #460
September 6, 2016- Room to be reserved
December 6, 2016- Room to be reserved