

Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

Jefferson Building
10th Floor
Jefferson City, Missouri
September 5, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Linda Hosman, Derek Williams, Kelly Schultz, Nicki Steinhoff and Amy Guyett

Children's Division Support Staff: Elizabeth Tattershall, Julie Lester and Tim Decker

Absent: Michelle Martin, Amy Martin

Guests: Lacey Dyke, John Head, Dana Lopez, Phyllis Hackman, Katie Brown, Michelle Lee, Shauna Baker, Stacy Wiley, Bob Larimer, Susan Jokerst, Rea Beck, Julie Murray, Nancy Birch, and Crissy Mayberry.

Introductions: Derek Williams filling in for Michelle Martin as chairperson. The attendees were welcomed and introductions were made along with an overview of the agenda.

From the Desk of the Director: Tim Decker asked the group how the Children's Division can serve foster youth with behavior and mental health needs. He is attending a meeting later this week to discuss physical health care with three new managed care providers.

Tim Decker explained the recent CFSR (Children and Family Services Reviews) completed by federal partners. He reported there were approximately 70 cases reviewed. The final report has not been provided. However, the initial response from our federal partners was that they have not experienced the excellent participation of those individuals involved from other state reviews. They were impressed that each participant including foster youth, resource parents and family members of children in foster care, understood their role and the roles of other members of the team. The participants also expressed they understood the new Children's Division Practice Model in Missouri, including why specific forms are used. There is positive data regarding placement stability and initial safety of children. There is a Data Dashboard that will be posted on the Internet soon. Tim Decker offered that more information including a PowerPoint presentation can be provided at the December meeting.

Tim Decker discussed work on improving permanency for foster youth. Areas that are being explored to improve permanency outcomes include exploring unique community dynamics, developing and providing preventative services and custody modifications by the court.

Julie Lester: Julie Lester provided an update of the current initiatives within Children's Division and the Division's Practice Model. The programs mentioned included the Five Domains of Well Being, Signs of Safety, Team Decision Making, Trauma Informed Care and Transformational Coaching. Julie Lester provided data of 6,104 licensed resource homes as of 9/1/17 and 13,530 foster youth as of 7/1/17. Julie Lester responded to the question regarding a current law suit against the Children's Division. It was filed by the Children's Rights organization. The filed suit is posted for public review on the Internet. The law suit addresses the use of psychotropic medications prescribed to foster youth.

Policy Updates: Elizabeth Tattershall

Elizabeth Tattershall updated the board on the following new policy/ memos:

Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

CD17-39; Rate Changes for Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy Maintenance, CTS, Respite and Residential

CD17-42; New Definition of Relative Foster Care Per Chapter 210.565 of the Missouri Revised Statute

The question was asked if all applicants identified under the new statute as relatives will now be offered the opportunity to waive Spaulding Training. Any of the case-by case waivers as identified in regulation 13 CSR 25-60.080 and on the CD-152 form for relatives are child specific. Spaulding training for reducing the risk of adoption disruptions is also a child-specific need for relative applicants.

Elizabeth Tattershall discussed a soon to be published memo regarding the Foster Care Bill of Rights (FCBR) and provided copies of the FCBR poster to be posted in each office and postcard to be provided to older youth.

Trauma Training for Resource Parents (RPC): Elizabeth Tattershall

Elizabeth Tattershall provided an update of the Trauma Training for Resource Parents (RPC). Elizabeth Tattershall provided answers for the questions of the board members.

*****WORKING LUNCH*****

Morning topics reviewed during lunch.

Legislative Updates: Kelly Schultz

Kelly Schultz believes that there will be many legislative bills regarding children filed during the 2018 session. Kelly discussed a legislative proposal her office is supporting regarding visitation for children in foster care.

Board Vacancies: There are currently 3 representatives for the 7 regions. Per the Board's statute (210.617), there are to be 2 representatives from each region for a total of 14 members plus a representative from 2 child agencies, FosterAdoptConnect and Foster Adoptive Care Coalition, and a representative from the Office of Child Advocate

Additional Topics/Questions: Members and Guests

- Discussion was held regarding accessibility of case managers and supervisors after hours, during nights and weekend. It was reported workers are telling the resource parents to not call them, but instead to call the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline if they need assistance after working hours. Julie Lester also made the suggestion of inviting the regional directors to a board meeting to be made aware of the issues the board discusses.
- The grievance process for resource parents is not working in the St. Louis County area (Susan Jokerst)
- Concern with placement decisions; she has openings but no one is placing with her.(Katie Brown)
- Barriers to teens prior to age 18 being able to open bank accounts (Nancy Birch)
- Clarification questions about resource parents going to FST meetings of foster youth formerly in their home (Dana Lopez)
- Concerns that the FCBR is contrary to the Reasonable and Prudent standards regarding foster youth attendance at Family Support Team meetings (Linda Hosman)

Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

- Request that the Division consider resurrecting the former “Step-Down” program for elevated needs youth (Linda Hosman)
- An offer of thanks to Central Office staff for addressing and resolving issues that have been presented at the board meetings (Linda Hosman)
- Discussion of surveillance camera use policy and safety of children (Amy Guyett). Julie Lester suggested forming a small work group to review language in policy regarding having surveillance monitors in foster homes.
- Relatives need more training in addition to the required 9 hours of Caregiver Who Knows the Child (Crissy Mayberry)
- Contracted FCCM providers are not following policy. They do things differently than CD workers; e.g. clothing vouchers (Michelle Lee)
- Resource parents instructed to call the hotline for help instead of the worker when it is after normal business hours (Karen Anderson)

Meeting was Adjourn at 2:00 PM by Derek Williams.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2017

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Jefferson Building 10th Floor

Jefferson City, MO