

# Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

Howerton Building  
Room 202  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
December 5, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Karen Anderson, Katie Brown, Michelle Martin, Judge Robin Vannoy, Judge Tom Frawley, Jennifer Foster, Sarah White, Emily Hymer, Kelly Schultz, Nicki Steinhoff and Amy Guyett

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

**Absent Members:** Derek Williams

**Guests:** Allyssa Miget, Alexandria Askins, Renee Riley, Kerri Favrow, Jon Favrow, John Head, Bob Larimer, Julie Murray, Tobey Wilkerson, Estakio Beltran, Bobbi Garber, Helen Jaco

**Introductions:** Chairperson Michelle Martin welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. Five newly appointed members are Judge Vannoy, Judge Frawley, Jennifer Foster, Sarah White and Emily Hymer.

**Boards and Commissions: Allyssa Miget and her intern, Alexandria Askins**

Alyssa reports that her department values the Board and their input regarding applicants for membership. She continues to look for qualified individuals for review and appointment and appreciates any submitted nominees. She also reminded the members about the luncheon being provided by First Lady Sheena Greitens at the Governor's Mansion December 11.

**Policy Updates: Elizabeth Tattershall, Program Development Specialist**

Elizabeth Tattershall provided the Board with a summary of the Children's Division memos published since the September meeting and passed around a copy of the following new policy/ memos:

CD15-43, Senate Bill 160: Unknown Perpetrators; Re-opening Cases (Formerly SB54); Changes to Definition of Care, Custody and Control

CD17-46, Revised Definition of Abuse and Neglect and Identifying Victims of Trafficking

CD17-50, Announcement of Children's Division Data Dashboard

CD17-51, FY18 Home Visiting

Cd17-52, Foster Care Bill of Rights

**Managed Health Care Plans: Bobbi Jo Garber, Director, MoHealth Net Division and Helen Jaco, Chief Financial Officer, DFAS**

Ms. Garber provided a high level explanation of the changes MoHealth Net Division is proposing to make to time frames for resource parents to choose a managed care plan for foster youth. Currently, foster youth have Medicaid, fee for services coverage at time of placement and the resource parent has 90 days to select a Managed Care Plan or opt out of Managed Care and keep Medicaid fee for service coverage. The proposed change would allow automatic assignment to a managed care plan with the option for the resource parent to select a different plan or keep Medicaid if they so choose. MoHealth Net is proposing the automatic assignment be based on Medicaid/Managed Care coverage the child was covered under when placed in foster care or in the plan which covers other members of the resource family household.

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Ms. Garber also explained an algorithm would be used for assignment to equalize assignments between the three managed care companies.

Ms. Jaco explained that all of the managed care plans have a contract provision which requires coverage of services during a 60 days transition period between plans. This enables the foster child to continue seeing the physicians, therapists and obtaining other service during transition.

Comments from the board included:

- When the resource parent is provided the insurance authorization letter, IM-29, they need to also be provided with a list of providers for each managed care and fee for service plans.
- There is a need to train Children's Division staff about how to support resource parents regarding referral to a plan and the "opt out" option for access of Medicaid Fee for Service.
- A question asked regarding whom to refer resource parents to when they have an insurance problem. It is reported the toll free number provided by the insurance company is not effective. Julie Lester offered direct contact to Rachael Dunwoody, the Program Development Specialist over foster youth insurance.
- There is a need to create a protocol with the point people of the insurance plans regarding plan assignment

Ms. Garber will send a copy of the talking points and information document about Opting Out and Transition of Services. Elizabeth Tattershall will update the Missouri Resource Parent Handbook regarding the foster youth insurance plans and options.

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

Tim Decker reports that across state divisions and departments, the networks' processes are working together to put children first. Mr. Decker welcomed the new members and stated that the Board members are the ambassadors to their local areas for child welfare. They are the eyes and ears for the Division regarding the status of child welfare practice. He commended the open communication that this group encourages and enjoys.

Mr. Decker briefly referenced the electronic medical records pilot. He noted two emerging priorities the leadership is focused on;

- 1) Improvements to the child abuse/neglect hotline with technology (a new phone system with greater capacity to accept calls) and increased staff including two new supporting locations in Springfield and Kansas City.
- 2) Improving timely permanency for foster youth by strengthening partnerships with court systems and improving the process. Some of the options are to hire more attorneys to complete TPRs and complete custody modifications.

Tim Decker reports that the upcoming legislative session will be very active especially due to the current administration's strong interest in children and the foster care system.

Tim Decker introduced Estakio Beltran. Mr. Beltran is a Foster America Fellow and will be employed with the Children's Division for a year or more.

In conclusion, Tim Decker informed the Board about the 2011 legislative action which created the Foster Care and Adoption Retention and Recruitment fund. The fund is intended to be used to provide grants to applicants for evidence-based specific recruitment programs. There is about \$10,000 in the fund and it sunsets at the end of calendar year 2018. Mr. Decker asked if the Board was willing to make a recommendation of where the money should be awarded. The group agreed. Kelly Schultz advised that the two represented associations, Foster Adopt Care Coalition and FosterAdoptConnect, need to recuse

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their selves from voting on the recommendation to avoid conflict of interest due to their ability to apply for the grant.

## \*\*\*WORKING LUNCH\*\*\*

Kelly Schultz and Elizabeth Tattershall presented during the working lunch.

### **Legislative Updates: Kelly Schultz**

Kelly Schultz reports she has no draft bills to present. She passed around a list of pre-filled bills which included the sponsor and title of the bill. Kelly believes it will be a very active legislative session.

### **Medical Logs: Elizabeth Tattershall**

Elizabeth Tattershall provide the group with copies of child welfare manual policy Section 4 Chapter 24 Subsection 2 which states,

“Also included in the medical record should be a log documenting medical information received while the child is in care. The log should record illnesses, medications and the dosage history, visits to physician/therapist, and the purpose of the visit. The log only documents medical information received while the child is in care. The medical log should be kept by the resource provider and submitted to the child’s Children’s Service Worker for inclusion in the child’s record on a monthly basis.”

Mrs. Tattershall asked if board members are familiar with or using a prescribed form to submit the monthly log and if it would be helpful to have a standardized form. The Board members were not familiar with this policy. They will take this information back to their local boards and discuss further. John Head reports as a therapeutic foster home for Missouri Baptist Children’s Home, he does submit medical information electronically.

### **Relative Applicant Skill Enhancement and Support: Elizabeth Tattershall**

Elizabeth Tattershall reported to the group that in an effort to provide support to relative foster parents a workgroup is being organized to discuss options. In response to her request for a volunteer to represent the Board on the work group, the following individuals responded:

Karen Anderson  
Julie Murray  
Amy Guyett  
Tobey Wilkerson  
John Head  
Kelly Schultz

And John Head also volunteered Dana Lopez who was not present

A meeting will be schedule after the first of the year.

### **Large Family Resource Homes update: Amy Guyett**

Amy Guyett of FosterAdoptConnect asked when changes are going to be made to Large Family Resource Home (LFRH) policy. Amy Martin responded that the changes being explored are regarding elevated needs training specifically for LFRH providers. There is a meeting being planned to discuss specific elevated need training for Large Family Resource Homes. Amy Guyett queried why the two parents have to be married. Amy Martin helped clarify that the policy is the home must have two licensed parents. There is no directive in policy that the two parents are a married couple. Amy Guyett also asked about the toilet requirements and Amy Martin explained that the toilet requirements are regarding group homes, not Large Family Resource Homes.

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## **Draft Annual Report: Michelle Martin**

Michelle Martin reminded the Board that they statutorily (210.617) directed to submit an annual report.

8. The board shall provide to the director of the department of social services, the governor, the office of the child advocate, and upon request, members of the general assembly, a written report of annual activities conducted and made.

Ms. Martin provided a draft copy of an annual report she has put together and requested comments as it was passed around. She will also send the group the document electronically.

## **Inclusion Education: Michelle Martin**

Michelle Martin reports that inclusion education goes beyond LGBTQ; it needs to include any diversity and disability. The group had an energetic discussion about training, both pre-service and in-service. Amy Martin reported that in 2018 the Division is reviewing training and moving beyond provided and required training to what support resource parents need; both foster and relative resources. Other thoughts included:

- Support in a new home or a new placement within 48 hours and for as long as it takes such as the Jones Program model which Foster Adopt Care Coalition is using
- Obtaining front end commitment from resource parents to the scope of the fostering task
- Important that there is always someone to answer the calls of resource parents
- Matching vintage resource parents with new resource parents; mentoring
- Normalizing the action of the resource parent calling for help
- Preventive measures such as Safe Families; voluntary unpaid support/services working with the bio family before custody to prevent custody

## **Regional Resource Parent Meeting: Michelle Martin**

Michelle Martin asked if the members continue to be interested in holding regional resource parent meetings. The general response was yes. The meetings would need to be topic based with a strong moderator. The purpose is to present information, not facilitate a complaint session. Nickie Steinhoff suggested that the three Adoption Resource Centers (ARCs) have data regarding all the advocacy calls they supervise. That information could help steer topic ideas for the regional meetings. In response to Ms. Martin's request for willing participants, the following individuals volunteered: Karen Anderson, Kelly Schultz, Jennifer Foster, Amy Guyett, Nickie Steinhoff, Toby Wilkerson, John Head, Julie Murray and Amy Martin.

## **Regional Updates:**

NE- Karen requests that the Caregiver Court Form be revised with the capability to attach the photo of the foster youth electronically. This is an Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) form and Amy Martin will pass this on to appropriate individuals.

SW – John Head reported concerns about adoption subsidy child care services provided across state lines. In response, Amy Martin provided supervisory information. Mr. Head also reports that there needs to be training for schools and hospitals regarding Normalcy/ Reasonable and Prudent Parenting. His experience with those entities is they will only work with the child's case worker, not the resource parent. He also voiced concerns about a resource parent who divulged confidential information on a Face Book post.

Kerri Favrow reports there is a problem in their region with hundreds of grandparents trying to raise their grandchildren with no financial support. These children are not in Children's Division custody. A support group went from 25 attendees to over 250 in a year's time. The group recommended referrals to FSD to apply for non-caretaker support. Judge Vannoy and Judge Frawley discussed Preliminary Child

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Welfare Proceeding hearings which began in 2008-2009. The child does not have to be in imminent risk for the court to take jurisdiction and request Children's Division find suitable placement; ideally with the grandparent who is trying to raise them. This does not guarantee that the grandparent will meet licensure standards to be eligible to be licensed as a foster parent.

Office of Child Advocate – Kelly Schultz brought attention to the group *Stewards of Children*, which provides a two hour training regarding the prevention of sexual abuse. She also reminded the group that *Missouri Kids First* provides education regarding prevention of sexual abuse. Mrs. Schultz also talked about the Child Fatality Review Panel's sub-committee that is exploring diversions and children killed in foster/relative homes.

FosterAdoptConnect – Amy Guyett reports they are experiencing concerns with resource parents creating “Go Fund Me” accounts. This and other social media issues are to be put on the March agenda. She announced a new ARC location in Chillicothe.

### **Additional Topics/Questions: Members and Guests**

Foster Adopt Care Coalition, Nickie Steinhoff: reports FAC is training 80 providers regarding Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DVP) with plans to certify 30 to DVP. The author of the training, Dan Hughes, is presenting March 9 -10, 2018.

Judge Frawley; suggests that senior judges could be hired to do TPRS.

John Head; concerned about who decides what attorneys are being hired and where the attorney's being hired are appointed to complete custody modifications and TPRS. Julie responded that he should contact his Regional Director with interested attorney names for consideration.

Bob Larimer; Amy Martin's response to his question if there are still exit interviews was yes. There is a survey form, CD-112, the worker is to use to engage the resource parent when they are retiring from providing foster care services. Also, NE University and the National Council of Adoption are doing a study in three jurisdictions querying the reason for resource parents leaving.

Jennifer Foster; inquired about any regulations for parent aides. The requirements are prescribed by contract language. She was given the information to locate the contract on the Department of Finance and Administration Services, DFAS, Internet page.

Judge Frawley; expressed concerns that older youth are aging out of the system with no support. He observes that Chaffee money is not being used and that Chaffee providers are not providing the contracted service. It is suggested that a Chaffee representative be invited to a Board meeting.

Amy Martin; presented the formation of a workgroup regarding access to psychiatry. She requested a volunteer to represent the Board. John Head volunteered and Nickie reported she has 2 individuals she will solicit and send the names to Amy. The meeting is scheduled for December 19.

Meeting was Adjourn at 3:06 PM by Michelle Martin

Next Meeting: March 6, 2017

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Governor's Office Building Room 315

Jefferson City, MO