

Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building

Room 315

Jefferson City, MO

March 6, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Michelle Martin, Judge Robin Ransom, Judge Tom Frawley, Jennifer Foster, Sarah White, Emily Hymer, Linda Hosman, 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 and Katie Brown

Guests: John Head, Julie Murray, Tobey Wilkerson, Dana Lopez, Jon Favrow, Bob Larimer, Courtnie Scott-Cammarata, Allison Dorsey, Lacey Dyke

Introductions: Chairperson Michelle Martin welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. Michelle reminded the board the position of secretary continues to be vacant and in need of being filled. Duties include minute taking and getting information out to the members.

Updates from Children's Division:

- Division Deputy Director Julie Lester provided a PowerPoint handout which outlines the Division's practice model as she had offered at the December 2017 meeting.
- In an effort to reduce the overdue Child Abuse and Neglect hotlines, the Division has been on a pause for new training and other activities. Central Office staff has been helping by assisting the field with reports. It has been beneficial, not only for reducing the overdue reports but for developing ideas to help improve the investigative process.
- A train the trainer class was provided by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau which focused on building competency and skill development in the Your Money Your Goals curriculum. Participants received hands on interactive training on cash flow, credit/debt, identify theft, and goals including the YMYG, Behind on Bills, and Debt Got You Down workbooks. Participants included Chafee providers, TLP providers, CD trainers and staff, and additional partners. Julie offered to provide the board with a link to the free curriculum available on the Internet. [Internet link](#).

Relative Resource Parent Skill Enhancement & Support:

- Elizabeth Tattershall provided update that the workgroup she discussed at the December 2017 meeting met 2/26/18 and the subsequent meeting is set for 3/13/18. There are relative resource parents, Children's Division staff and contracted staff working with this group. Mrs. Tattershall states that the workgroup is exploring what

support relatives need, such as mentors, and resources to build the parenting skills necessary to meet the physical and mental needs. Data indicates as of March 1, 2018, 47% of the licensed foster homes in Missouri are relative homes. The goal is to discover what relatives need to be successful foster home placements for their relative children and make recommendations for training and support changes.

- Issues regarding relatives voiced by the board included financial assistance timely.
- Julie Lester explained the difference between relative resource providers, licensed relative resource providers and safety/diversion plans. Julie reports the Division is revisiting the safety/diversion plan practice. Also, mentioned was Team Decision Making (TDM) which although not being implemented state-wide yet, the practice model is very successful regarding the placement decisions including preventing foster care placement.

Updates from Children's Division Director Tim Decker:

- Director Decker explained that there is new federal legislation drafted to provide federal IV-E non-custody matching funds for front-end services to a family to provide support in an effort to prevent custody through the Family's First legislation.
- Director Decker sees the need to reframe our work to become a system of practice using a community mode and a multi-system approach.
- Director Decker reports that to reach permanency quicker and improve the ratio of entry to ratio of exit, he would like to be able to assign a Division attorney to every case. Judge Frawley believes that the best way to quicken permanency is to develop a court watch program to monitor the judges.
- Director Decker reports that the Division is working with Casey Family Programs regarding a Judicial Engagement Team (JET) court room observation initiative.

Assessing Criminal History:

- In response to the board receiving a draft policy memo regarding reviewing criminal history as a required piece of the assessment for licensure process, Judge Frawley created a list of his observations. As requested, he was provided with Missouri regulation and Federal law to understand the purpose for the policy memo. The board was provided a document with his list of observations, concerns and questions.
- The board discussed if Missouri law should be more restrictive/stricter than federal law. The consensus was, yes.
- The board discussed if the exclusionary crimes should be regarding all adults 17 and older or just the applicant. Vote 9 of the 11 members it should be all household members.
- Judge Robin Ransom initiated discussion as to whether the law should read 5 years since the commission or date of the conviction. There was not consensus of which it should be.
- Judge Tom Frawley was concerned about the policy addressing "pending" charges. It was explained that the pending conclusion of the charges was only a pause for

licensure, not an exclusionary to be licensed. He would like a definition of “pending charges”. The group did not vote about the pending charges language.

Potential Court Watch/Surveys:

- As a response to Director Decker offering to provide Judge Frawley with the name and contact information of the judge working with Casey Family Programs court room observation initiative, it was decided to not discuss this agenda item at this time.

Administrative Updates:

No representative from the Governor’s Office attended to provide information for this agenda item.

Survey, National Council on Adoption:

- Children’s Division Program Manager, Amy Martin, reported on the status of the initiative with the National Council for Adoption and Northeastern University.
- The first region to be surveyed is Jackson County and the Northwest circuits of Missouri.
- Letters sent to resource parents explaining they will receive a survey at 7 points in their journey through the foster care system.
- The next region the surveys will be sent to is the Southeast Missouri.

Working Lunch:

- During the working lunch, Michelle provided a summary developed by Judge Frawley of the topics of interest which members of the board submitted. Topic Headings included Foster Parents, Parents of Foster Youth, Courts, State Agencies, and Youth.

Legislative Updates:

Kelly Schultz from the Office of Child Advocate reports there are at least 15 bills submitted that touch foster care. She provided the process to go on-line to view the bills: Go to House.mo.gov, click on Committees tab, on the left side of the page scroll through the alphabetized list of committees to Special Committee to Improve Care and Well Being of Young People.

The same search can be done by going to Senate.mo.gov.

Psychotropic Drugs Updates/Survey:

Amy will send the link to a Survey Monkey to Michelle Martin to provide to the board. The board was encouraged to get this link to as many resource parents as possible. The information will be used by the workgroup exploring all the issues surrounding the topic of psychotropic medications.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7T677WJ>

Informed Consent Policy:

- Patsy Carter, psychologist and consultant for Children’s Division provided copies of drafted policy regarding informed consent. Lori Masek, Program Development

Specialist for the Children's Division joined her and Dr. Lane Young-Walker, DMH, joined by phone.

- The revisions are an effort to address the overuse of psychotropic medications prescribed to foster youth and is a cross agency effort.
- The goal is to create workers who are informed consumers. That they have the information prior to giving consent for treatment and medication changes.
- Dr. Carter went over the policy draft addressing each revision and fielding questions.
- Dr. Carter encouraged the group to make recommendations or any changes, concerns and provided her email address for the recommendations to be sent to her or if there are any questions.
- Director Decker offered that at the next meeting a report of how the transition of this policy is being implemented. It is a change of practice and will be challenging for staff, resource parents, and the medical community.

Regional Updates:

- Jackson: (Representative Jennifer Foster) Continuing concerns about the quality of the parent aides who contract with Children's Division. Reports that FAC is going to start a Rapid Reunification Parenting Program within the next 6 months.
- Jackson: (Representative Linda Hosman) A positive story shared regarding the professional and speedy response by the Division to a hotline call.
- St. Louis: no reports from this region
- Northeast: (Representative Karen Anderson) Encouraged with the quarterly regional foster/adoptive advisory board meeting attendance.
- Southwest: (Representative Emily Hymer) Reports there are resource parent retention problems in her region.
- Office of Child Advocate: (Kelly Schultz) There is a free 2 hour training provided by Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children. *Stewards of Children* is the sexual abuse prevention curriculum facilitators including Missouri KidsFirst and the Office of Child Advocate. It is an evidence-informed prevention curriculum.
- FosterAdoptConnect: (Amy Guyett) FAC is opening a new facility in Chillicothe with the ribbon cutting set for 3/19/18. Amy also reports that she is observing improved and good communication in Jackson County among the contracted provider staff and CD staff.
- Foster Adoptive Care Coalition: (Nickie Steinhoff) Nickie discussed a new program that FACC is using, SOAR. It assists in foster youth transitioning in to the community.

Open Forum:

- From SW, questions about other agencies in addition to Global Orphan Project and Care Portal in Greene County. A program called Compa Care which is a ministry program from the Assemblies of God (Compact Ministries), has been introduced. Amy reports that the Care Portal is in KC area, Central Missouri, Cape Girardeau and Taney Counties. The only barrier to expansion in the rest of state is that in each jurisdiction there need to be 15 churches willing to participate and a person to be the coordinator.

- From SW, is there an updated Older Youth benefit information sheet. Amy Martin reports she will email the most recent version.
- From SW, question asked if the parents of youth in foster care can participate in the elevated needs training prior to reunification. The response is yes, if there are openings in the classes.
- From SW, what can the Division do to get school staff to complete trauma training?
- From NE, need clarification regarding rumors that the Large Family Resource Home policy is changing or has changed. The policy has not changed.
- From NE, Karen reports there is a faith-based foster parent conference coming to Kansas City, Kansas, Refresh. She will find out more information to share
- Kelly Schultz stated she did not like how the room was set up for today's meeting. Per directive from the Governor's office, the room was set up with the board members and Children's Division support staff at tables which formed in a "U" shape and a gallery of chairs was set up at the open end of the "U" for all other attenders to the meeting to sit. Agreement was reached to change the seating arrangement.

Adjourn: 3:00

Handouts provided at this meeting:

- Children's Division Practice Model PowerPoint
- Assessing Criminal History summary of review of policy memo draft
- MSFCAB 2018 topic goals
- Children's Division revised Informed consent policy draft, manual section 4 Chapter 24 subsection 2

Meeting was Adjourn at 3:00 PM by Michelle Martin

Next Meeting: June 5, 2017

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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