

Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building
Room 315
Jefferson City, MO

June 5, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Michelle Martin, Judge Robin Ransom, Judge Tom Frawley, Emily Hymer, Dana Lopez, Katie Brown, Kelly Schultz, and Amy Guyett

Children's Division Support Staff: Elizabeth Tattershall, Amy Martin, Shelia Tannehill and Tim Decker

Absent Members: Jennifer Foster, Sarah White, Nickie Steinhoff

Guests: Julie Murray, Bob Larimer, Brigitta Hoskins, Stacey Wiley, Rachel Dinwitte, Crissy Mayberry, Michele Ainsworth, Sally Gaines, Bobbi Jo Garber

Introductions: Chairperson Michelle Martin welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. Michelle informed the board Nickie Steinhoff volunteered to take the position of secretary. In her absence today, Elizabeth Tattershall will take the minutes.

Memorandum Updates, Elizabeth Tattershall:

The following memos were referenced and explained:

- CD18-09
- CD18-16

Mrs. Tattershall also informed the group Missouri State Highway Patrol is in the process of awarding the contract for electronic fingerprint service which is set to expire on June 30, 2018. The award of this contract has been delayed. The delay as well as a potential transition in contracting for this service may cause delays in fingerprinting processing.

Updates from Children's Division Director Tim Decker:

Tim informed the group of his resignation as Director of the Children's Division. He encouraged the group to continue doing what they are doing. He reports there is a solid administrative-leadership team that will continue to support the practice model and initiatives he introduced during the past four and a half years as Director.

Tim shared about the Practice Model Showcase that occurred in March. The 20 different groups who shared the successes experienced with the practice model was both encouraging and validating.

Tim reports that the informed consent policy continues to be reviewed and revised. There is no final draft to share yet with the group. However, specialty treatment care will still need the worker or supervisor to provide consent. It is the day to day treatment the foster parent will have ability to consent to. Tim stressed the importance of involving the child's birth parent in the decision process. There will be a delay in implementation once the policy is introduced to allow for transition. There will be no disruption of current care for foster youth.

Tim asked, “what is one item regarding the consent policy you would like to be addressed?” The responses included:

- The worker’s decision not be at the exclusion of the resource parent; be sure the resource parent has a voice
- Clean up the policy language to be clear regarding “should” and “shall”
- Empower the workers to be confident to hold their own with the medical professionals
- Provide appropriate training regarding making medical decisions and make it mandated
- Be mindful of the rural areas and lack of resources
- Allow the birth parents involvement in decision making when appropriate
- Need a timeline of when implementation is expected
- Ensure the medical providers are on board with the new policy
- Give training so the person presenting the medical information at court has knowledge regarding what they are presenting
- Education and transparency

In response to the question of what is the process for the suggestions and comments of the board regarding policy they review, Tim emphasized that communication is what is necessary for understanding the comments submitted. Not every suggestion of the board will be implemented. The board plays an advisory role in policy review.

Managed Care update, Division Director Bobbi Jo Garber:

Bobbi Jo Garber reports that the change in the process for foster youth’s managed care coverage begins July 1, 2018. On day one of placement, the foster youth is eligible for managed care coverage. The foster youth is automatically assigned a plan. If they were in the Family Support Division’s system, they will continue with the same plan. The placement provider may call and change the coverage the next day if they need to. They may also opt out of the managed care plan.

The behavioral health portion is currently carved out of the managed care plan while the MOHealthNet division researched how other states are operating.

Ms. Garber also spoke about the Medical Passport project. MOHealthNet is doing a pilot in Audrain, Boone and Callaway counties beginning 6/5/18. All the foster youth’s health information may be accessed by using the passport to log onto the data base. The passport is in the form of a credit card which has no visible identifying information. The passport is the mechanism to log onto the data.

Working Lunch:

During the working lunch, Michelle Martin reminded the group that a vice-chairperson needs to be nominated and elected. Crissy Mayberry nominated Dana Lopez and Kelly Schultz seconded the motion. Dana accepted the nomination. The members voted unanimously in favor of Dana Lopez as new vice-chairperson.

Potential Court Watch/Surveys- Tom Frawley, Kelly Schultz, Michelle Martin:

The subgroup including Kelly Schultz, Tom Frawley and Michelle Martin provided a 3 page document they drafted which consists of a list of survey questions for an individual to complete while sitting in a

court hearing. They report the purpose of this tool is to gather information to help promote court proceedings to be consistent state-wide. The information is general proceeding actions, not specific case information.

Group discussion included:

- Who should be completing the form? It was the understanding of some that members of the board would go around the state and observe various court hearings. Others think that the resource parent could do it when at a hearing for their placements. One suggestion was a neutral party completes the form.
- What will they do with the gathered information; what are they trying to accomplish?

Kelly Schultz will send the form electronically. She said the next steps are:

- All to proof read the form and decide which questions to keep or others to add
- Decide who is going to complete the form
- Decide where to do a pilot of using the form

Assessing Criminal Records for Placement and Licensure- Tom Frawley

Amy Martin, program unit manager for Children's Division, provided an update that Children's Division along with legal representation continues to work on the policy to comply with state and federal law regarding criminal history that precludes placement in, licensure of and/or funding for a resource home. The issues still to be worked out are:

- Other household members age 17 and older
- Mitigating circumstances to consider
- Suspended Imposition of Sentence
- Pending Charges

When a final policy draft is completed it will be sent to the group for review and comment.

Legislative Updates- Kelly Schultz:

Kelly Schultz from the Office of Child Advocate reported on two important legislative bills that were signed by the Governor 6-1-18; SB819 and SB800. She provided the process to go on-line to view the bills: Go to www.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 www.Senate.mo.gov.

Amy Martin reported regarding SB843. This legislation designates the Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption board to administrate the Foster/Adoptive Retention Fund. Currently there is \$15,000 in the fund. The money is collected when a tax payer selects the box on their return for money to be placed in the fund. The board will need to create a grant application. Kelly Schultz will provide a copy of the application that CJA (Criminal Justice Association) uses to replicate a similar form.

Chaffee- Sally Gaines:

Sally Gaines, Program Development Specialist over the Older Youth Program, presented an update on the current benefits offered by Chaffee contractors. She answered many questions and provided 4 handouts including:

- Map of the contract monitors with their contact information for the 6 regions of the state
- Map of the 6 regions with the contractor names and contact information and the Older Youth transition specialists
- Services/ benefits chart
- Support Activities chart

Workgroups – Amy Martin:

Several members of the board are on various workgroups regarding support, skill enhancement, and training topics. Amy provided update information:

- Relative Support: One project of this group is the creation of an information brochure to be provided to the placement provider when the child is placed to assist with services immediately, contact information and anything they need to know as soon as the child is in their home; child care, medical appointments, etc.
- Older youth: Work is being done to provide information of what older youth in foster care are like. The project includes possibly making a video.
- FFTA: Foster Family Treatment Association is exploring what needs to happen to approve relatives to provide for therapeutic care. Discussion includes a possible pilot area
- Elevated Needs: reviewing the resources for training including the required pre-service training for all resource applicants

Open Forum:

- From SW region, concerns about security and virus issues with the Medical Passport project.
- From St. Louis region, need quicker turn around for requests of paternity testing. Sheila requested specific DVNs to explore the reported concern. Paternity testing services is a Family Support Division contract.
- Kelly Schultz encouraged the group to participate in the free training Stewards of Children and to encourage all resource parents to participate.
- Foster Adopt Connect, reporting inappropriate forcing of legal guardianship instead of adoption for permanency.
- From SE region, report there has been a lot of disconnect in the region, but they are currently setting up new resource parent support groups.

Adjourn: 3:00

Handouts provided at this meeting:

Meeting was Adjourn at 3:00 PM by Michelle Martin

Next Meeting: September 4, 2018

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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Jefferson City, MO