

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Governor's Office Building, Room #315

200 Madison Street

Jefferson City, MO 65103

September 4, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Karen Anderson, Dr. Steven Archer, Jennifer Foster, Judge Tom Frawley, Dana Lopez, Michelle Martin Bonner, Crissy Mayberry, Melanie McDole, Judge Robin Ransom, Kelly Schultz, Nickie Steinhoff

Children's Division Support Staff: Julie Lester, Vicki Stoneberger, Sheila Tannehill, Elizabeth Tattershall

Absent Members: Katie Brown, Linda Hosman, Emily Hymer, Jennifer Townsend

Guests: Craig Stevenson, Stacey Wiley, Julie Murray, Jessica Petrie, Tobey Wilkerson

Introductions: Chairperson Michelle Martin Bonner welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. Michelle Martin Bonner asked board to review the minutes from the June 5, 2018 meeting, stated Nickie Steinhoff will be taking notes and Dana Lopez is co-chair of the board. CD has agreed to time in open forum and after meeting for individual/personal situations.

Memorandum Updates, Elizabeth Tattershall:

Mrs. Tattershall reminded group that all memos are posted on-line on CD website. The following memos were referenced and explained:

- CD18-19: Announcing new respite invoice for AD and guardianship subsidy; can be added to basic subsidy.
- CD18-21: Change in MO Health Net enrollment.
- CD18-22: Informed Consent Policy Revisions; resource parents have to complete training to do routine consent.
 - Looking for ideas for dissemination of information/training to staff and resource parents (CD18-22). Online training for staff and resource parents. Dr. Patsy Carter is working on FAQ's to share with staff, parents and providers. Disseminate through parent support groups, regional advisory boards, FACC mailing postcard to all resource parents notifying them of policy and webinar training.
 - Judge Frawley asked why Board members had 2 days to review policy – role of "advisory" understood. Judge Frawley requested to go on the record of not supporting the informed consent policy.
 - Julie Lester stated that there are many factors that influenced the policy, including the current lawsuit regarding consent. CD looked at other states and their practices. CD committed to doing what's best for children.
 - Kelly Schultz stated that CD went to many stakeholders, including older youth, over the past 6 months to review policy and collect feedback from stakeholders.
 - Policy was shared with Board members on June 21, 2018 (emailed by M. Martin Bonner). Historically, drafts have not been shared with Board members once it has been shared for review and comments.
- CD18-23: Announcement about Linking Hearts event in Rolla, MO.
- CD18-25: Access to resource parent files; now files are closed, they are not sunshine able. Parent of child in a home that has been revoked can inquire about the revocation.
- CD18-27: Introduced a new chapter in manual titled "background checks"; section 6, chapter 19.
- CD18-28: Home visiting Program for at-risk families, with children age 0-3 and pregnant mothers; 11 contractors and 8 community partners.
- CD18-29: American Academy of Pediatrics – updates to safe sleep practice; revisions made to be in compliance with Academy's recommendations.
- CD18-30: 2018 Legislative Changes

Updates from Children's Division Interim Director Julie Lester:

Lawsuit with Children's Rights around psych meds and foster youth. 3 different children that were focus of this that determined class action lawsuit; CD appealed – will be heard in 8th district court. Had second mediation last week. CD represented by attorney general's office. Contract with Center for Excellence will help with reviews to see if things are happening as they should. One piece, how do we keep electronic records? CD concerned about this issue prior to lawsuit and continues to be concerned.

Julie Lester named interim director on July 1, 2018. CD practice model – state is in different phases of this roll out. At the end of 2017, had been to every circuit with Signs of Safety; continue to provide coaching on this model. Family First federal legislation; passed in February 2018. IV-E funding – able to re-direct money to prevention services. Working with ARC to keep kids in communities, getting kids out of congregate care; 12-13% of youth in MO in residential care. Many are in residential care b/c there isn't a family in the community to support them. MO reduce number of youth in congregate care by this time next year.

- Kinship Navigator Funds – additional support for relative caregivers by providing federal funds for evidence-based Kinship Navigator programs that link relative caregivers to a broad range of services and supports to help children remain safely with them.
- Home visiting Program (prevention) – Julie Lester shared experience in St. Louis where mom was totally engaged with home visitor.
 - Also looking at SAFE Families program
- Engaging birth parents in the process
- Opioids and other substance abuse – CD always looking at safety; is there a history, what supports does mom have?

Behavioral Interventionists – primarily utilized on the western side of the state.

Safety plan practice – starting to look different in certain areas of the state. Families agree to plan, then CD out of the picture; several safety plans prior to court involvement.

Backlog of CA/N investigations (6,000 statewide – now 20). 1,000 in St. Louis City, now zero.

Discussion ensued regarding relatives/grandparents that are caregivers but do not have any legal relationship with the child; leads to issues with school enrollment, etc.

Child Welfare System is not just Children's Division – how do systems (DYS, DMH, etc.) work better together to support children and families?

Casey Family Programs – working with 3 medium size circuits; Judge Welch.

Crossover Youth Protocol – state team that can provide assistance to circuits; youth are all of our kids, regardless of what "side" they start on.

National Foster Training – Sheila Tannehill:

MO approached for "National Training & Development Committee" (Center for Adoption Support & Education, Child Trauma Network, Spaulding for Children & NACAC) to develop and pilot a new training curriculum for resource parents. MO has stated interest, would be a 5 year grant. Proposed pilot area in Jackson County and 29 counties surrounding (R & R pilot area); there is an evaluation component.

Proposed Model Foster Family Licensing-Sheila Tannehill:

Regulation recently published around resource parent licensing standards – can submit comments until October 1, 2018. E. Tattershall will be completing cross-walk between current statute and proposed model standards.

Working Lunch:

Informed Consent and Management Update-Elizabeth Tattershall:

Assessing criminal history; current draft of memo shared with participants. Lists specific criminal convictions and circumstances which by law are exclusionary for applicant to be approved for licensure. "For relative resource applicants only" – mirrors federal law; includes any adult in the household.

Page 3 has a reminder of Resource Licensing Core In-service training regarding family engagement.

Revisions begin on page 2 – please review and send thoughts/comments to distribution list. Kelly Schultz – no policy regarding safety planning (diversions), regarding criminal background checks.

Judge Frawley – if adult in diversion program, pleads guilty, i.e., drug court; MO more restrictive than federal law.

Chapter 579 references drug related offenses.

E. Tattershall will email today with copy of memo draft; and deadline for comments.

Medical log (goes to new resource provider from previous provider) and healthcare information summary (given to CM each month) – draft memo introduces 2 forms (CD-264 & CD-265). This is not a new policy, just new forms. E.

Tattershall will email policy and draft forms to group.

N. Steinhoff stated the importance of continuity of care between medical providers to assure the best possible care between placement, medical and mental health providers.

Post Adoption Contract Agreements-Karen Anderson:

Attorneys in Karen’s circuit have asked parents not to relinquish until post agreement is signed. Questions from Karen’s area:

- What are the repercussions if post agreement is not followed?
 - What court will hear these proceedings?
- What is the legislative purpose? Kelly Schultz stated post-adoption agreements in the state of CA; have seen decreased time to permanency based on post-agreements.

Goal is to have conversations with all parties involved prior to the TPR whether or not this is in the best interest of the child; not necessarily “visitation” – it is “contact” which has a broader definition.

Workgroup Updates:

- Relative Support-Karen Anderson:
 - Meeting mostly by phone. New tri-fold brochure produced, will be introduced with a memo. Gives telephone numbers/who to contact, timeline, and lists what the worker should be doing to develop home for licensure; also space for unique resources for individual circuits. Support is more important than training.
- Older Youth Information
- FFTA
- Elevated Needs/Training-Nickie Steinhoff, Elizabeth Tattershall & Vicki Stoneberger: Waiting to meet until November when MO is notified about being a pilot state for the National Training Pilot.

Open Forum:

- Checklist for courtroom procedures – Kelly Schultz:
 - Courtroom procedure – not whether or not we agreed with the judge or not, checklist of procedures (not practice). Who should be observing? Other resource parents? Board members? As a group, is this something we should be taking on as a board? Will be a lot of work but can have large impact; will be hard to get judiciary on board. If we are going to get a snapshot of the state, we have to commit the time to visit throughout the state.
- Immunization Records – Jennifer Foster:
 - Difficulty obtaining immunization records – varies by region of the state.
- Adoption Disruption – Jennifer Foster:
 - Adoptive parents not getting support they need; now faced with child support payments.
 - Vicki Stoneberger suggested contacting her directly when this is an issue – reiterated that parents should be getting support from staff. There are qualifiers – what has already been done, etc.
- Childcare providers – Crissy Mayberry
 - Cannot use respite money for childcare
- Fingerprints – Elizabeth Tattershall
 - New contractor started August 6, 2018 – only have 5 sites up statewide at transition. Adding sites daily. Contract states must have a site within 30 mile, one way driving distance for all MO residents. Results

should be available within 15 minutes for CD review IF there is no history. RAP-back – MO Highway Patrol – starting last Wednesday (8-29-18), anyone who was fingerprinted after this date will not have to be re-printed at licensure renewal. RAP-back procedure is in CD policy.

- Central Training Calendar – Michelle Martin Bonner
 - Issue with participants showing up without registering for training class; class size becomes too large, expensive for training resources, i.e., STARS manuals.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m. by Michelle Martin Bonner

Next Meeting: December 4, 2018

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