

# Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

*Meeting convened virtually via Zoom*

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

## **MINUTES**

### **Introductions/Meeting Information – Dana Lopez**

**Board Members in attendance:** Steve Archer, Kristina Branch, Jennifer Foster, Dana Lopez, Crissy Mayberry, Melanie McDole, Nickie Steinhoff, Craig Stevenson & Jennifer Townsend

December Meeting Minutes – Jennifer Foster made a motion, Crissy Mayberry second– minutes approved.

**CD:** Amy Martin, Joanie Rogers and Melissa Selsor

**Guests:** Deanna Alonso, Kerri Favrow, Pamela Foster, Bobbi Jo Garber, Kathy Haddock, Eric Martin, Michelle Martin-Bonner, Amber McKenzie, Lara Roberts, Tobey Wilkerson, Sarah Willis & Katy Velasquez

### **Updates from the Director – Joanie Rogers, Interim Director**

Ms. Rogers reported looking at CD's current structure and capacity due to the pandemic and budget challenges; specifically, looking at ways to provide consistency in messaging across the state on how we are operating resource development. The Director shared that CD is passionate about letting resource parents having a voice.

Implementation of Family First Prevention Services Act - First, looking at TFC (Treatment Foster Care), CD's capacity to build and recruit TFC homes, looking at transitional funding that might be available through Family First. Exploring how we can support our children through resource providers and therapeutic foster homes.

### **Questions:**

Craig Stevenson – Governor Parsons very recently released \$3.5 million - What are CD plans for using these dollars? Support and capacity for staff the best way we can. Looking at how we can support our resource parents better. Will be meeting this afternoon to discuss utilizing funds in the best way possible.

Dana Lopez – Is CD looking to keep TFC with contract agencies or with CD? Children's Division feels passionate about supporting families regardless of level (traditional foster homes – TFC). Opportunities with Families First give CD a new way to look at TFC and how to recruit TFC homes. Previously, TFC was rolled out as part of the residential contract; CD is now working on a second contract for TFC to be developed by child placement agencies. This will allow TFC to be an option to step down and step up. CD has been having conversations with Ryan Dowis (FFTA – Family Focused Treatment Association) regarding consistency in service for children who require this level of service. Amy Martin will be meeting with Ryan later this week to discuss Missouri's vision for TFC.

Dana Lopez – Is there a number or recruitment goal for TFC homes across the state? Additional homes are needed across the continuum of foster care (traditional, Level A, Level B, etc.). Also looking to increase the level of confidence that parents need to care for children that require a higher level of care. Want to ensure that the wrap around support is consistent throughout the state.

Jennifer Foster – NW Region lost 'home-finding' service, this service has now been placed back on case managers. Will this be permanent? CD has had conversation with Cornerstones of Care. Again, goal is to increase consistency in service delivery and implementation across the state.

Lara Roberts – SE Region, general concerns regarding lack of child care services and lack of consistency within CD, and low adoption rate for children who enter care. Ms. Rogers would like to follow up; SE has a strong resource recruitment

program; want to explore having a direct link to central office to be more aware of issues. Governor has set out a plan for permanency for children; have brought on additional attorneys to assist with this. Met last week to discuss where to start.

Jennifer Townsend – Kinship/Relative Placements, experiencing hardships with paternal relatives without a paternity test; being told not to place until paternity is established. CD has reached out to discuss this barrier, conversations are happening and actions are being discussed.

### **Foster Parent ID Cards and Courts – Dana Lopez**

SE Region – resource parents being turned away from court if they do not have a physical foster parent ID card. Is this issue isolated to the SE, or, is this happening in other locations in the state? Not this issue, but there have been issues with foster parents not being notified of hearings.

### **NTDC Update – Amy Martin, Unit Manager**

NTDC (National Training and Development Curriculum) since September 2020. Amy feels like we are going to make our numbers prior to the project deadline. Excited about this curriculum, and, the excitement that parents are having as part of the assessment. Evaluation results will be statistically significant, then starting statewide training in 2022.

### **Memo Updates – Amy Martin & Melissa Selsor**

No CD Memo updates.

### **MO HealthNet Presentation – Bobbi Jo Garber, Eric Martin & Amber McKenzie**

Behavioral Health Carve-In (Power Point Presentation-attached)

Bobbi Jo Garber, Director of Constituent Services

Eric Martin, Director of Behavioral Health Services

### **Questions:**

Can our youth only use providers associated with that specialty plan? MHD completed a provider review to get contracts with them. The issue is, will providers refuse to contract? They will have to hold contract for 6 months during transition. Cross-checked fee for service and managed care providers.

If you have additional questions, comments, or feedback please email [MHD.BHCarveIN@dss.mo.gov](mailto:MHD.BHCarveIN@dss.mo.gov)

### **QICAG Introduction & Update – Amy Martin**

5 years ago, CD was approached by the Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship to consider being a part of pilot project solving issues for AD/G families; Amy applied and they did a site visit at that time however passed at the time due to the implementation of the new practice model. CD/Amy has applied again and has been approved. The first meeting was held last week with Family Resource Centers and brainstormed how streamline process for families to access the services that Family Resource Centers provide; this will be a short term project. Goal is for all families to know how to access the appropriate Family Resource Center for their zip code. Also, consistent services from all of the resource centers without taking away passions or specialties.

### **Open Forum**

Melissa Selsor – still seeking feedback on resource parent handbook, looking for more. Melissa will email the questions to the group. Resource parents fall into 1b category for the COVID vaccination that begins on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jennifer Townsend – contacted by child welfare policy consultant that was seeking additional information regarding the State Board and local advisory boards.

Jennifer Foster – informed consent – biological parents took child to the pediatrician over a concern and gave consent for treatment; birth parent and parent aide were with pediatrician. In this situation, birth parent had unsupervised visitation, and it was appropriate in this particular case. The policy states that we should be consulting with birth parents on all issues related to consent.

Nickie Steinhoff – TAC (Training for Adoption Competency) a 72 hour post graduate training program for mental health providers that work in the field of foster care and adoption. The Annie E Casey Foundation reports on a positive evaluation of the TAC program by the Evidence Based Practice Group of AECF. The evaluation documented “better therapy outcomes and experiences for adoptive families” served by TAC vs a control group. You can read the article here: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/helping-mental-health-clinicians-better-support-adoptive-families/>

Dana Lopez – Resource Parents receiving W-2’s for respite providers for amounts under \$500; Amy reached out to the payment unit, and was told: W-2’s for respite are received for any respite income and all of that income is taxable. Please also share with your local contacts and on any list serves.

Adoption Subsidy Daycare Issues – Change in leadership in Early Childhood unit; governor decided that this will move into DESE early learning unit.

Katy Velasquez – Medical Marijuana Memo – kept on hold; still discussion on how policy will read and needing clarification on storage and verification on storage. Have developed a training to address this – training is currently being vetted by CD staff.

Tobey Wilkerson - First Steps, language on the form that First Steps can be used as a child to qualify as medical. Form and policy do not match; need to determine which is correct and update. Amy will make sure she looks at it and makes sure they are congruent and will distribute to the group. Struggling with a very large provider in SW Missouri that is requiring case manager consent. Amy suggested reaching out to Stacie Frueh, Health

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 am by Dana Lopez.

**Next meeting date:** June 1, 2021

**2021 Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>