

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Meeting convened virtually via Zoom

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

MINUTES

Introductions/Meeting Information – Dana Lopez

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

March Meeting Minutes – Steve Archer made a motion, Jennifer Townsend second– minutes approved.

CD: Sharon Barsby, Amy Martin, Joanie Rogers and Melissa Selsor

Guests: Sarah Bashore, Timothy Daugherty, Janay Grayson, Kathy Haddock, Sara Smith, Tobey Wilkerson

Memo Updates – Melissa Selsor

PC Process Change for Child Care Authorization (Sharon Barsby will discuss later)

FP Bill of Rights – Universal Placement Letter to be used by each circuit across the state, moving forward, for each new placement made. A copy must be given to each family. Contract agencies will use the same language in the placement letter on their own agency letterhead.

Child Welfare Manual Workgroup – Melissa Selsor

Workgroup established to make the CW manual more user friendly. Making it read step-by-step; starting on Section 6. Meeting monthly for 2 hours to complete the project.

Respite Training Manual Revision – Melissa Selsor

Re-doing the respite training manual. One of the first documents that resource parents are exposed to, making it look more professional and works well for the purpose it's intended for. Would be helpful to have a list of available respite providers to contact. Amy Martin mentioned a project working on resource centers that provide the same core services, with respite being one of them. Will be adding another resource center in North East MO. Project will be finished by September.

Educational Stability – Craig Stevenson

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is looking for opportunities to share, remind, and educate placement providers and CD/contracted staff of the importance of keeping educational stability for children. They are working and looking for barriers to attaining educational stability and working to find policy (CD and/or legislative) solutions to ensuring this is as protected as possible. Nickie shared that the Coalition's Educational Advocates are working with the child welfare and educational community in the St. Louis area to increase awareness around educational placement protocol.

Director Update – Joanie Rogers

Making sure resource parents are getting the support needed

Pending the governors' signature = Increased the foster care maintenance rate:

0-5: \$450, 6-12: \$510, 13 and older: \$630

Clothing allowance increased:

0-5: \$320, 6-12: \$400, 13 and older: \$700

Also making sure there are funds available should a child move placement; language states how much one can spend a quarter. Trying to figure out if this language is solidified.

Special expenses for age 0-3 and respite rates increased.

A great emphasis on TFC with Families First.

Foster parent portal – focus on foster parent support (respite, identification of foster placement, payment reimbursement, etc.).

Child Care Authorization Update – Sharon Barsby

4-19-21: Launched protective services authorization unit. Workers and/or foster parents can submit via link. Some families using daycare while they home school older children, use daycare for socialization purposes, etc.; just need documentation from the team regarding the need for childcare.

NTDC Update – Amy Martin, Unit Manager

Project runs to 2022; MO has reached their goal number in 2021. Spaulding is working on exit strategy for this part of the project. As we exit, we will be able to use additional components of the NTDC curriculum more freely. Comparison group in St. Louis area for STARS Curriculum; another comparison group held in the southern part of the state for the STRONG curriculum. Once comparison groups reaches their numbers, MO will make the decision regarding what curriculum will be used.

Digital Forms/DocuSign – Amy Martin, Unit Manager

CD currently working with DocuSign to develop processes for required forms to be processed electronically. DocuSign talks about ‘enveloping’; forms requiring signatures would be put together in a package (enveloping) to be electronically signed. Also looking at guardianship/adoption subsidy paperwork utilizing this process as well.

Medical Forms – Amy Martin

Medical form billing and who can sign (when no primary care physician). Any physician who has history with the patient can sign the form.

House Bills Passed – Amy Martin

HB557 – To ensure background checks are done on residential facilities and child placing agencies.

HB1414 – TAPAs legislation – ability to track temporary placements made by parents for youth that do not enter custody, but have CD oversight.

Open Forum

Janay Grayson – KC Black Foster Families, started this organization earlier this year to promote diversity among foster parents after the homefinding unit closed. Also, for youth to feel connected to their culture. Provide resource, support and education for foster families raising black children in the KC area; also recruitment of African American foster parents. www.kcblackfamilies.org

Tobey Wilkerson – Process for extending subsidy past the age of 18 when a child has a medical issue; looking at extending subsidy for a child who doesn’t complete school until after the age of 18. 18+ agreement negotiated on medical, mental or dental treatment needed to transition from child services to adult services. Have to look at many considerations when thinking about extension.

Tim Daugherty – connect Tim with Steve regarding educational issues. Could there be an initiative at the state level for school districts to follow through fully on a child’s IDEA rights. Also, improve the quality of psych evaluations systematically for youth in care.

Jennifer Foster – ‘Ice-breaker’ meeting between bio parents and foster parents at initial placement; is this happening anywhere in the state? Jennifer Townsend has participated in one and it has been very beneficial.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am by Dana Lopez.

Next meeting date: September 7, 2021

2021 Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, December 7th