

Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board
Governor's Building, Room 316
200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101
Tuesday, March 1, 2022

MINUTES

Introductions/Meeting Information – Dana Lopez

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

December Meeting Minutes – Craig Stevenson made a motion Crissy Mayberry second– minutes approved.

CD: Lauren Masterson, Sherry Moeller & Melissa Selsor

Guests: DeAnna Alonso, Renae Beushausen, Kristina Branch, Pamela Foster, Rhiannon Franklin, Kathy Haddock, Julie Murray, Becky Ruth, Courtnie Scott Cammarata, DeAnn Tegert

Level A & B Benefit Update – Melissa Selsor

Children's Division met with Family Resource Centers (FRC); funding went to FRC, payment will go out through resource centers. For Level A & B parents (not TFC) and maintained placement minimum of 90 days; if placement hits 90 days sometime during fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2021; about 400 families for the first round).

Letter to resource parents regarding the supplemental payment is in review right now, many nuances involved; letter going to parents who are getting the first round of checks.

Onetime payment, per family, new and retro payment, working on FAQ's for website.

Came about through HB11 for this fiscal year "supplemental benefit" – moving away from 'incentive' language.

Memo Update – Melissa Selsor

Alternative Care Review Board (waiting on memo call)

Updated policy, Section 6, Chapter 7, Subsection 2, to match regulation. There is now a centralized email address: CD.ACRB@dss.mo.gov for ACRB forms to be sent to.

Resource Provider Quarterly Home Visits (memo call completed, memo will be posted soon)

3 forms: Professional Family Development Plan CD-100, Resource Parent Quarterly Home Visit Checklist and Quarterly Summary CD-118 and Resource Home and Safety Checklist CS-45 have been combined into one form – CD-118. The CS-45 must still be completed prior to initial placement with unlicensed relative providers, and during the licensure and licensure renewal process for both relative and traditional foster care providers.

Addition to Special Populations in the Child Welfare Manual (waiting on memo call)

Draft of memo as well as draft of updated policy shared with group for review. Please provide feedback and/or comments regarding the policy to Melissa Selsor, via email.

Discussion ensued regarding language and preparing resource parents. Is this included in child welfare staff onboarding? Specifically CD staff?

CWPT (Child Welfare Professional Training) is the training curriculum for new staff – it has been updated with in the past 6 months; it has been reviewed for inclusion. CD will look into this issue and update at the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding additional issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Craig shared the importance of individual identification for all youth, but specifically for youth that are marginalized. Is there are required ongoing training after initial CWPT? Yes – exact requirement unknown.

Deanna mentioned “iFoster” – which serves as a ‘vault’ for foster youth documents (ifoster.org) as well as many other resources & opportunities for older youth to become successful, independent adults.

Racial Disproportionality and Disparity:

Using evidence based tools at FST, PPRT to ensure all of a child’s ethnic, racial and cultural needs are being met.

Recruitment efforts should document that we are recruiting for parents that match the demographics of the children served.

Post Permanency Support – Lauren Masterson

Adoption and guardianship subsidy; how are we getting information to families regarding services post-permanency process? CD updated the tri-fold brochure to include the Family Resource Centers and Kinship Navigator programs.

A lot of work needs to be done regarding communication; parents feel threatened that they will be charged child support if they relinquish their child. Parents don’t have options (treatment) for adopted youth that have high mental health needs, or, pose a safety issue for other household members.

There is a need for ongoing education and support for adoptive families; a lot of stigma for adoptive parents when letting someone know that things aren’t going well.

Family Resource Centers bringing the CORE Teen curriculum for that extra education and support to parents.

Things coming down that pipeline regarding post-permanency, i.e., looking at making subsidy workers more therapeutic, clinical, rather than contract negotiators. Being more proactive, rather than reactive with families post-adopt.

REACH Pilot – working well and decreasing disruption.

Please encourage parents to contact their Family Resource Centers for services, such as advocacy, peer support, crisis stabilization, etc.

Pre-Service Curriculum Update & Training for Foster Parents – Lauren Masterson

There has not been a formal decision has been made regarding the curriculum for pre-service training; decision will be made as a state. Currently MO is divided into three training curriculums: NTDC, STARS & STRONG. Waiting for the completion of the NTDC evaluation to review the data before making the decision; evaluation ends in September 2022. Services from Spaulding will end prior to receiving the data report.

Lauren will pull together a statewide training curriculum team to assess how it impacts all of the training that we require resource parents to have from inquiry to full licensure.

NTDC offers more trauma informed parenting as well as working with biological families. NTDC offers ‘right time’ training that would fit as in-service training. CD is hoping by the end of the year a decision can be made regarding the curriculum.

STARS Train the Trainer – many staff need the second week of STARS to be able to write home assessments.

STRONG Train the Trainer – created a resource development (home study process) training, since STRONG didn’t include this component of the TTT. (Resource Development Training – 2 day). This training is recorded and submitted to centralize training unit to be included in CWT... and a standalone training.

Look at STRONG, week 2 of train the trainer, to write the home study (2 day created by regional team) for staff who need this since there are no STARS TTT scheduled.

Reach out to Melissa to keep track of how many people need to be trained, can we have temporary authorization to train staff internally. Request temporary approval to authorize staff to write home studies.

TFC Update – Sherry Moller

TFC came out of residential contract and included into child placement agency contract. Working on regulations right now for TFC. Greater emphasis on permanency. Three types:

TFC – TFC worker to provide extra support to families.

Relative TFC – providing TFC support in relative home.

Transition TFC – again, moving towards permanency. TFC has always been a transitional program; transition TFC is more like aftercare – working with where the child will be going for permanency.

TFC timelines have not changed – it has always been a six month intervention with the option of extending.

Childcare Providers & Subsidy – Lauren Masterson

Childcare subsidy program (hand out provided). Childcare providers may ask the adoptive parent to pay the difference in the child care rate if their rates are higher than what the state will pay. However, the adoptive parents can choose to pay, but it cannot be required of them to pay. Child Care Rate Information by County:

<https://apps.dss.mo.gov/childcarerates/>

Behavioral Health Carve-In – Lauren Masterson

Provider will be selected in June, then conversations begin regarding the process. There is a worry that families will be switching to fee for service prior to the shift – however, then family wouldn't be eligible for care management services.

Open Forum

Julie Murray – asked if Signs of Safety is still the CD practice model; this is just one piece of the practice model. Lauren will update at the next meeting. TDM – anytime there is a placement change or anticipated placement change, a FST is required; some areas of the state rolled out TDM's. Regardless, if called a TDM or FST, it is required to meet. Will look at adding this in the ACRB memo.

Deanna Alonso – letter to President Biden from COVID commission related to the amount of youth who have lost a caregiver due to COVID. Deanna asked if and where Missouri is gathering this information. Suspected that data is collected by local health departments.

Craig Stevenson– BOD Appointments: If we continue to meet quorum, they will not be appointing new members. In the governor's budget FY23 recommending a \$40 million investment in case management software.

Beth Admire – gap in resources. When you get to the point when a child needs residential; then parents are tasked with finding a residential bed, connected to a list via Children's Division. ACI – statewide hotline staffed by DMH:

<https://dmh.mo.gov/media/pdf/aci-hotline-county-map>

Also recommended reaching out to manage care provider and ask for a care manager to assist with services.

Rena Beushausen – looking for on call case manager; telling families to contact the hotline and they will reach the worker. Each resource home should have a 24 hour telephone number

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm by Jennifer Foster.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022

2022 Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Tuesday, December 6, 2022