

## Foster Care and Adoption Advisory Board

March 5, 2024 10-2pm

Truman Building, Room 570

### Minutes

Attendees: Katy Velasquez, Steve Anker, Pamela Foster, Dana Lopez, Renae Beushausen, Craig Stevenson, Joanna SanPaolo, Kathy Haddock, Kelly Kuda, Mike, Sherry Moller, Lauren Masterson, Melissa Selsor.

Virtual Attendees: Vickie Stoneberger (CD), Laura Garten (Live2GiveHope), Jill Quaid (CMFCAA), Rhiannon Franklin (CMFCAA).

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

Dana Lopez opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introductions were made.

#### **Approval of Minutes from December, 2023**

Craig Stevenson motioned to approve the December, 2023 minutes.

Steve Archer seconded this motion.

#### **Reboot of Resource Development**

Melissa Selsor provided an update regarding the resource development workgroup facilitated by Change and Innovation and Children's Division. Melissa updated that the group has been working for 1 ½ years and that a traveling group has been going around to the different regions in the state to teach staff about the changes and to get their feedback. Some of the changes include assigning a licensing worker early in the process, going down to 2 home visits for the home study, approving families as respite early in the process and a standardized home study with a guide of questions. We hope to roll this out in late spring of 2024.

#### **Memo ICPC & TFC**

Joanna SanPaolo provided an overview of CD24-06 Out-of-State Licensed Resource Provider & Relative TFC Foster Care Maintenance Payment Rate Increases. All out of state licensed relative and foster care providers caring for Missouri foster children will now sign the CM-14 Professional Parenting contract and receive the same maintenance rate as Missouri licensed foster families. Out of state licensed relative and foster care providers are also now eligible to receive medical and elevated needs maintenance on behalf of an eligible child as long as the family has completed the required child specific medical, or elevated needs training (including equivalent training), and receive the same rate as Missouri medical and elevated needs resource providers.

As a result of a new Federal Rule that requires relative foster care providers to receive the same rate as licensed non-related foster care providers, relative TFC maintenance rates have been increased to the traditional TFC maintenance rates.

#### **Grievance Process for FCCMs**

Marcia Wetzel, FCCM Unit Manager with Children's Division provided an overview of the FCCM grievance processes. FCCM agencies follow Children's Division policy but may have their own grievance forms. Individuals should be encouraged to request the grievance form from their case manager and utilize the chain of command if needed. The FCCM oversight unit processes complaints that cannot be resolved through FCCM Chain of command. If someone would like to make a complaint to CD about an FCCM provider, they should call their local CD office and ask for the phone number or email address of their regional CD Oversight Specialist.

### **Fund for Board**

Current funds available for recruitment/retention is \$30k. Legislation allows the board to spend \$15k per year. Dana presented a draft of the Grant Application as well as our roll out plan. We needed clarification on some of the language in the draft. Lauren offered to have DLS review the document and provided comment on it. Arlene joined via WebEx and confirmed that disbursement of the grant funds will go through her office. She will need to see our proposal at some point. If the funds are dispersed to a current agency an invoice is all that is needed.

**Lunch was provided.**

### **Board Document**

Crissy was ill this day, so review of the board document was put on pause.

### **Children's Division Caregiver Portal**

The Children's Division Caregiver Portal Phase 1 went live in February. Resource providers can now create an account on the citizen portal and log into the Caregiver Portal to see their license, placement and payment information. Board members reported having success accessing this portal.

### **MO C.A.R.E. Melissa double check here**

The NTDC pilot in the NW and KC has culminated in to a Missouri adaptation of the NTDC curriculum now called MO Caregiver and Adoption Resource Education (MO C.A.R.E). Informational meetings were held in each region of the state with Children's Division and Child Placing Agencies to share the MO C.A.R.E. curriculum and draft policy changes in progress. The MO C.A.R.E. pilot has been expanded and is an accepted curriculum across the state. Policy changing Missouri's standardized pre-service curriculum to MO C.A.R.E is expected to roll out summer 2024.

### **Reasonable and Prudent Parenting**

The updated Reasonable and Prudent Parenting poster was shared and reviewed with the board. This work was paused but has resumed and Children's Division is working to make this available.

### **Data**

Data for foster and relative homes statewide was shared with discussion regarding the need to increase foster homes.

### **MO Network Against Child Abuse**

This agency shared about their programs and the new mandated reporter training. They provide the following:

- Member Support and Networking
- Advocacy and Response
- Community Education and Outreach, and
- Professional Training and Certification

### **Open Forum**

There was discussion regarding Children's Division policy on employees as foster parents (CWM 6.10 CD Employees as Foster or Adoptive Parents). Children's Division policy restricts Children's Division and FCCM employees from being placement providers from accepting placement of a child who is in the custody of CD (including cases managed by FCCM) unless they are a relative to the child(ren) or pursuing adoption of a child legally free for adoption. This restriction includes emergency foster care and respite. Clarification regarding this policy only applying to CD and FCCM case management agencies and not all types of contractors was discussed. This policy has been reviewed for legal opinion several times. There is currently a workgroup that has proposed revisions to this policy that are under review. Concern regarding misunderstanding and misapplication of this policy was discussed.