



FINAL

DHS Children, Adults and Families
Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Future Issues Work Group
August 11, 2010

Attending: Janet Arenz, Mike Balter, Iris Bell, Pamela Butler, Lois Day, Mickey Serice

Guest: Judith Moore

Minutes recorded by Pam Pearson

MINUTES

The 6/9/10 FIWG minutes were approved.

REVIEW AGENDA

- Balter: The draft agenda for September 8 CWAC looks good. He wants to devote time to the Dashboard tutorial and have CAF staff walk CWAC through it. He is cognizant that with the State hiring freeze, it will be increasingly difficult to receive specialized reports, such as the report FIWG received this week on "Child Abuse/Neglect Victims by Age, Race/Ethnicity and Gender" (aka Teen Report).
- Serice: CAF Research staff have asked if they can discontinue that report. The data has remained about the same in the 16 quarters reported. Though not a large workload, it is a workload. The suggested alternative is to review the right indicators on the Dashboard. It may be possible to pick up the report again down the road if/when resources improve.
- Balter: The report was created to look at whether or not the Oregon Safety Model made an impact on services to teens. It appears it has not, but we do want to continue to look for blips in the data. He suggested FIWG agree the specialty report not be continued and that CWAC focus on the Dashboard as the method for looking at data.
- Serice: This specialty report came out of a concern of the CWAC Teen Issues in Child Welfare Subcommittee that the OSM may reduce the accessibility of services to teens. The data is showing no significant change, up or down, over 16 quarters.
- Balter: Let's agree to discontinue the teen data report as a specialty report and, instead, use the Dashboard to track trends. We will use this example as part of the Dashboard discussion. After all, CWAC has only a handful of members who remember the original purpose of this particular report.

- Arenz: Agrees. It is important to continue to track some of the indicators on teens, though.
- Balter: There may be a natural place to find those indicators on the Dashboard. He wants to spend some significant time on the Dashboard during the September meeting. The tutorial should be sent in advance and we will train members on how to use it. We will also focus our time on the OSM. Those are the two focal points for the meeting.
- Balter: Is there anything else we need to focus on? Will the Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force have any recommendations ready for us to review?
- Arenz: An update on the task force's current work could be given, but no action items will be ready for September.
- Serice: Asked Mike if Erinn had talked with him about using the CWAC as a Rules Advisory Committee for our temporary rules on the Sensitive Review Committee. These temporary rules expand what is in statute. It may make sense to use CWAC as the RAC to consolidate rather than create a new committee.
- Arenz: Agrees that it is good to use what we have in place whenever possible rather than creating new task forces and committees, especially since we are so short of time and resources. But we need to make sure CWAC can fill this role and be supportive of the division without leaving the committee's mission.
- Serice: This is right in line with internal conversations CAF is having on how to consolidate other work where ever possible. Resources won't increase and workload probably will.
- Arenz: Heard this morning that the legislature is getting ready for a special session in September.
- Balter: Maybe this is a conversation to have with CWAC – that this is a period of consolidation and CWAC may be used in place of new task forces and committees.
- Arenz: Mini work groups might be used that report back to CWAC, depending on the task.
- Butler: Agrees with the efforts to consolidate.
- Balter: To recap: We will consolidate the teen report and Dashboard discussion and look to answer our data questions through the Dashboard rather than specialty reports. The September CWAC meeting will focus on how to use the Dashboard and continue the OSM training from the July meeting. In November, CWAC will be able to start using Dashboard reports. Some of our regular cross over reports will be folded into the OSM portion of the agenda.

We also will fit in the Rule Advisory Committee into the agenda. The OSM is one container on the issue of child safety in which the RAC for the draft rules of the Sensitive Review Committee fits. As Janet mentioned, we need to consolidate across agencies more. We have a full plate: Equity Task Force, Casey Project, OSM, trends and data, and legislative work.

- Day: We still need to have a conversation with CWAC on the Foster Care Safety Team recommendations. If CWAC won't be able to take on the work recommended by the FCST, then she will need to find an alternative.
- Balter: We will spend 1.5 hours on the OSM and FCST recommendations combined. It all falls under our main priorities of assuring safety when children are in care and when they exit care. The RAC also falls under those priorities.
- Butler: Has been getting questions about where the FCST recommendations are going and agrees with the need to have that conversation with CWAC.

- ACTION:**
- **FIWG agreed that the “Child Abuse/Neglect Victims by Age, Race/Ethnicity and Gender” (aka teen report) report be discontinued. The Dashboard discussion with CWAC will use this as an example of using the Dashboard as the method of looking at data in place of specialty reports.**
 - **The draft tutorial will be presented to CWAC in September for comment.**

DATA REPORT – DASHBOARD

- Serice: The goal today is to see if the draft tutorial is what CWAC is looking for. CWAC has an interest in the child welfare system and in the safety of children in that system. The committee has been looking at data over the years, including data around teens to see if access to services to that population changes with the policy changes of the OSM. The data shows no significant change.

The Dashboard is used by district managers to give them a quick read if their district is moving in the right direction. It includes child welfare, self sufficiency and vocational rehabilitation services. As the Dashboard has progressed, it has become popular with both the field and central office and is viewed as one step in our key performance measures (KPM) called line-of-sight. It makes sense that CWAC use key elements of the Dashboard to track issues around the OSM and safety of children.

The first draft of the tutorial is almost done and we share what we have with FIWG today. He described the four sections of the tutorial. It uses five

measures that speak to the OSM and safety of children: 1) CPS Response – Timeliness; 2) Re-Abuse – percent of recurrence (secondary); 3) Foster Care – Relative care; 4) Foster Care – Reunification and Re-entry (secondary); and 5) Face to Fact contact – children.

The graphs in the Dashboard were developed to benefit district managers. Some show progress when the arrow for desired improvement points up. Others show progress when the arrow points down.

- Day: She will add a descriptor that connects the measure to elements in the OSM.
- Bell: Are we being asked if these are the right five measures for CWAC?
- Serice: Yes and if this is the type of tutorial that will meet CWAC's needs.
- Arenz: When first developed the Dashboard monitored the CFSR Program Improvement Plan. She is not sure if these are the right measures without seeing the complete Dashboard.
- Serice: We can add or substitute measures as needed. A link to the Dashboard will be added to the tutorial.
- Arenz: We may have questions when we see data in ancillary reports.
- Day: Will add a descriptor that connects the measures to a PIP.
- Balter: Need to add a reason why the data points are collected. In addition to the five measures listed above, at some point he would like to see the measures that look at equity.
- Day: We are working on a collection of data for the disproportionality work but they are not finished yet.
- Arenz: Mentioned she would like a briefing on differential response as a future agenda item.
- Day: She is putting a concept paper together. It is also called alternative response. The idea is to divert some families to resources in the community for help with the stressors they are experiencing rather than CAF taking over and coordinating the resources. In some circumstances, where the allegations do not result in a founded disposition, that is a more appropriate response to families than the CPS investigatory path. It would require a statutory change.
- Bell: That approach could also improve equity issues.
- Day: Yes, culturally specific services could be provided to the family at the beginning.
- Arenz: CPS is one size fits all. This would allow for alternative responses in some circumstances. It has the potential to get Oregon off the top five list for

removal and address racial equity. The Dashboard could give an opportunity to see how it is working.

- Bell: What statute changes are needed?
- Day: Is not sure which statutes specifically. The statutes say CAF Child Welfare investigates child abuse, but differential response says there may be another option in certain cases. Other states have redefined abuse and pulled some categories out of the investigation track.
- Balter: This addresses the goal of keeping kids out of care. Right now we are focusing on safety as we identify elements in the dashboard, but it could be used to track all four of our goals.¹ We agree to start with safety and the OSM. We can add more Dashboard measures in time to track our other goals.
- Arenz: Is there any reason to link this to Healthy Start to see which families that come into the CPS system have been visited by Healthy Start?
- Day: It's possible. OR-Kids will be collecting educational data so we may have that data in our system. However, is it Child Welfare's job to determine the success of Healthy Start?
- Balter: Measuring is exciting, but our capacity is constrained. What we have discussed is a start. We will practice as a committee on how to understand what the Dashboard reports say on these few elements. As we get better, individual members can look at other elements of interest to them. The tutorial will use these five measures as their primer. Suggested FIWG members look at these five measures with the tutorial to see if it will work for what CWAC needs and come prepared with some basic questions to lead that conversation at the September meeting. One question he has is: When do we know when the data is telling us something important – how do you know when a trend is appearing?
- Serice: Excellent question. We have so many research requests that we have not been able to ask our researchers for help with helping us interpret trends.
- Balter: The data is interesting but they don't tell a story over time.
- Serice: Agrees. We want to protect our researchers as much as is reasonable to get to these trend interpretations.

¹

- Identifying strategies to reduce over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.
- Preventing foster care placement;
- Assuring that children placed in foster care are safe and are thriving;
- Providing permanency for children placed in foster care in a timely manner

- Balter: If we make it an expectation that CWAC members access the Dashboard on their own and that CWAC will not ask for special reports, then maybe we can ask about trends.
- Arenz: Where is the best place to find a definition of child safety?
- Day: She will go to the materials from the National Resource Center that we used when developing the OSM to get that definition for Janet.
- Balter: Interesting that we have been on CWAC for a long time and we are still asking such basic questions like Janet's for a definition of child safety. Perhaps we need to adopt a definition on child safety for CWAC work.

- ACTION:**
- **Changes to the draft tutorial will include: 1) a link to the Dashboards, 2) a comment in the "more information" section that connects the measures to the OSM and PIP, 3) adds a reason for why we look at the data.**
 - **Send draft tutorial to CWAC prior to September meeting.**
 - **Gather feedback at September meeting. Anna Cox and Jerry Waybrant will be invited to hear feedback and answer questions.**
 - **CAF will finalize tutorial for use at November CWAC meeting.**
 - **Lois will provide a definition of child safety for FWIG.**
 - **"Differential Response" will be added to CWAC's list of issues for a future agenda item.**

BRIEFINGS – LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

In addition to Mickey's written report, time on the agenda will be devoted to the Rule Advisory Committee for the temporary rules regarding the Sensitive Review Committee (15 minutes).

BRIEFINGS – FEDERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

Erinn will decide if the timing is right for a briefing. This issue came out of her attendance at a State Administrators Conference in which she saw states have an opportunity to set the federal agenda.

BRIEFINGS – CASEY PARTNERSHIP

Lois will give an update on the addition of the Oregon Judicial Department as a partner and some personnel changes.

CROSS OVER REPORT – FOSTER CARE SAFETY TEAM

Will be included in the agenda item for CWAC Work Plan Goal 4.

CROSS OVER REPORT – CHILD WELFARE RACIAL EQUITY TASK FORCE

No report for September. See CWAC Work Plan Goal 1 below.

CROSS OVER REPORT – HB 2009 AND THE DHS/OHA TRANSITION

No report for September.

CROSS OVER REPORT – JUVENILE DEPENDENCY INTERBRANCH WORK GROUP

No report for September.

CROSS OVER REPORT – CJA TASK FORCE

- Serice: We are researching to see if CWAC could fulfill the Children's Justice Act Task Force role. It is in federal but not state statute. It appears there is no problem. The task force membership requirements are met by CWAC except for a medical person.
- Butler: In Don Darland's update at the July CWAC meeting, he described how the task force grants out money. Could CWAC take on that work?
- Day: There is staff support within her office so we are not looking to create more work for CWAC. The staff do the committee work.
- Serice: The task force makes the final decisions on where the grant money goes. Federal law says an existing committee can be used as the task force.
- Bell: Would a subcommittee make recommendations to the full CWAC?
- Day: A subcommittee or staff could make the recommendations quarterly to CWAC and CWAC would vote yes or no to approve the recommendations.
- Serice: The next step is to talk with the active committee chair, Shari Mason, and to Don Darland about this proposal. Then we will have a CWAC conversation.
- Balter: In terms of an action item, asked that CAF bring an Action Proposal to FIWG to vet if it is work CWAC wants to take on. Asked that the proposal be brought to the October FIWG meeting so CWAC can take action during the November 10 meeting.
- Serice: The Action Proposal will describe the proposed responsibilities of CWAC members and any cautions the current task force may have. He will

make contact with Shari Mason and Don Darland. He will work with the CJA staff to draft the proposal.

- Balter: Asked that Mickey let the current task force and staff know this is not a CWAC power grab, but comes from an internal effort to manage limited resources and part of the move toward consolidation.

ACTION: CAF will present a proposal to FIWG in October regarding CWAC taking on the role and responsibilities of the CJA Task Force.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Report on Workload Staffing Model

No report to CWAC until the report goes to the legislature.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Will include updates on the impact to CAF on Congress' approval of a 6-month extension of FMAP, Title IV-E, rebalance, interim and possible special session in September, and E-Board.

CWAC WORK PLAN

Goal 1: To advise the Department of Human Services (DHS) on development and administration of child welfare policies, programs and practices related to reducing over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.

- Arenz: The equity task force is developing its policy recommendations that are action-oriented. The challenge will be the environment in which we will be working to accomplish them. The task force does not want to be overly aggressive and recognizes the challenge the current budget environment will place on accomplishing the recommendations.
- Balter: Asked that their recommendations be routed through FIWG for framing to CWAC.
- Arenz: Need to keep in mind the pre-session deadlines that must be met.

Goal 2: To expand the representativeness in CWAC discussions.

Mike Balter will continue his work on contacting current members whose terms have expired to ask about their interest in continuing. See April 28 FIWG minutes.

Goal 3: To coordinate and leverage state and local efforts to improve policy, program, and practice.

No report in September.

Goal 4: To advise DHS on the practice of the Oregon Safety Model (OSM).

Lois Day will continue her training presentation from the July meeting. She will also facilitate a discussion on the Foster Care Safety Team recommendations.

Meeting adjourned.