



FINAL

DHS Children, Adults and Families
Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Future Issues Work Group
June 9, 2010

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

Minutes recorded by Pam Pearson

MINUTES

The 4/28/10 FIWG minutes were approved.

CURRENT BIENNIUM BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Today the state agency budget reduction plans to balance the current biennium budget were released. Erinn Kelley-Siel gave a brief explanation of CAF's reductions. There was discussion on the need for an ongoing media campaign in anticipation of the response from the public in which they ask, "How bad is it?" CWAC members and their organizations may be able to help with such a campaign. This will be on the agenda as part of the assistant director's report.

REVIEW AGENDA

- Balter: The priority issues to discuss today are: 1) How CWAC should respond to policy option packages (POPs). 2) Start a framework to communicate a CWAC general point of view to the legislature and public. 3) Reflect on the May 21 Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force meeting. 4) Start a framework for CWAC advice on the Oregon Safety Model. Asked if there was anything else we needed to do today.
- Bell: The letter to the legislature would be the priority for her.
- Balter: Wants to come to an agreement on the topic(s) of the letter and then one or two of us can draft the letter afterward.

CROSS OVER REPORT – CJA TASK FORCE

- Day: The full CJA Task Force report is 111 pages. If wanted, she can provide CWAC with their recommendations and preliminary action plans. Erinn's question was whether the CJA Task Force should remain a separate group or if CWAC could fulfill their role. The CJA Task Force currently sees themselves as a CWAC subcommittee.
- Pearson: They are not a subcommittee statutorily, but there was a decision many years ago to unofficially consider them a subcommittee so that they would present their reports and recommendations to CWAC.

- Day: Evaluating how the Oregon Safety Model (OSM) has been implemented is a major part of their 3-year plan.
- Arenz: We would have to consider the composition of CWAC and if it would become too large before agreeing to take on the role of this task force.
- Serice: The task force is funded and may have more opportunity to look further into the OSM than CWAC would.
- Day: They do significant work around community partners. Don Darland is currently on both CWAC and the task force. Becky Smith was on both (but is no longer on CWAC).
- Serice: It would be good to look at the ORS the task force sits in and research how we can better bring them and CWAC together. The task force awards grants that support child welfare from the federal funding they receive. He will research. Following his research, he will schedule time with Mike Balter, Stacey Ayers, and Don Darland to develop a proposal for next steps.

ACTION: The cross-over report at the July CWAC meeting will raise awareness of the task force's work. Mickey will report on what progress he has made in his research.

DATA REPORT – DATA USED BY FOSTER CARE SAFETY TEAM

- Day: There were four data pulls provided to the Foster Care Safety Team. The idea of sharing pieces of this data with CWAC was suggested by Don Darland and she has not had an opportunity to talk with him to clarify what he had in mind. She will ask Anna Cox for help in arranging the data in a more coherent fashion for the July CWAC meeting.
- Balter: He is trying to bring the findings of the FCST and CIRT process together. They are two places where recommendations on child safety are made. He wants to bring these recommendations together under the umbrella of evaluating the implementation of the OSM. These are concrete reviews of safety issues and can be used instead of creating new ways of asking for information already provided.
- Day: Had been delaying the CIRT piece until the CIRT manager was hired, but the hiring freeze means we will not be able to hire that person now. But we need to do that work regardless to see if the action steps in the CIRTs are getting us to where we want to go.
- Balter: Suggested using the July CWAC meeting for a conversation about these streams and how they come together. It could be a tutorial on the OSM with these streams as examples. CWAC does not have a basic understanding of the

concepts in the OSM. Envisions CWAC meetings being organized in a way that deals with the mechanics of reports and data for the first hour and then devotes a significant portion of each meeting on the issues of overrepresentation and the OSM (Goals 1 and 4 in CWAC work plan). The July meeting will kick off this agenda organization with an hour tutorial on these high level concepts in the OSM.

- Day: Then the next meeting we could provide greater detail on one piece in the OSM.
- Arenz: Understands this format, but struggles between wanting an action item based agenda and one that provides this grounding information.
- Balter: The FCST recommendations will fit in the training. There will be action items. We are also asking the Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force for their action items to tie the knowledge we gained when we attended their May 21 meeting to what we are going to do with that knowledge. The July CWAC meeting should have time on it for CWAC members to report on their experience at the May 21 meeting.
- Arenz: Is on the Equity Task Force and is willing to lead that time for reflection. They are drafting their recommendations, overlaying all the work groups' concepts to see how to frame their next steps. There will not be an action item for CWAC in July because the task force recommendations will not be final.
- Balter: We will focus on the OSM at the July meeting and the task force in September. The time at the July CWAC meeting regarding the Equity Task Force will be for members who attended the May 21 meeting to reflect. In September we will have their final recommendations and can look at how they tie with our work.
- Arenz: Would like CWAC's feedback to go back to the task force.
- Bell: In writing.
- Arenz: The task force was asked to get feedback from communities on their draft recommendations and this could be a contribution to that effort. Perhaps the task force chair could attend this portion of the July CWAC meeting.
- Balter: Yes, it would be good for him to hear that CWAC is going to sort through their recommendations and which ones we will take action on.
- Serice: This would be good – for CWAC to validate the task force in writing.
- Bell: This validation should include how we can support their work and how their recommendations fit in our CWAC work.

- Balter: We will then ask for a formal hour long presentation of their recommendations at the September CWAC meeting.
- Arenz: She will invite the task force chair and Kory Murphy to attend the July CWAC meeting for this 45 minute portion (10:00-10:45).
- Day: Suggested that when the next CWAC agenda is distributed, the cover email include a paragraph about how the agenda will be formatted for the next year – with the first hour on calendar, data and reports and then a meaty hour or more on either Goal 1 (overrepresentation) or 4 (OSM) of the CWAC work plan.

ACTION: Janet Arenz will invite Kory Murphy and the task force chair to the portion of the July 14 CWAC meeting in which CWAC members will reflect on their attendance at the May 12 task force meeting.

DEVELOP RECOMMENDATION TO CWAC ON RANKING OF POPs

- Serice: We have not yet received the schedule for POPs. We are re-using the list from the 2009 needs-based budget request. It is available for your review online at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/budget/09-11budget/pops/> . We may have some additional POPs, including one from the Equity Task Force. Due to the workload in pricing POPs, we will be pricing a smaller number of POPs and not every POP on the list.
- Arenz: Rather than trying to develop a way for CWAC to rank POPs as a committee, suggested prioritizing key issues and supporting the POPs that support those issues.
- Balter and Bell: Agreed that CWAC as a group is ill-equipped to rank POPs.
- Bell: But some individual members do want to do that kind of work and may want to form a smaller group.
- Arenz: We are all capable to ranking them through the venue of our individual organizations and not as a CWAC activity.
- Balter: If we agree that our four priorities are indeed our four top priorities, we could ask CAF to sort the POPs by those categories and then we can say we support the POPs that fall under those four priorities and not rank beyond that. That allows us to say what are the most important POPs to CWAC. It begins to build the conversation on the letter we will write to the legislature: on our four priorities, the POPs that move those priorities forward and what cannot be cut from CAF.

- Serice: Are you asking that the Agency Request Budget POPs be categorized by the four CWAC priorities?
- Arenz: You could probably link every POP to one or more of those priorities. Does like the idea of running them through that filter, but not sure how to do it meaningfully. It is easier to say which POPs we do not support than to say which ones we do support as a committee.
- Serice: Last biennium, the Family Services Review Commission did not prioritize, but recommended certain POPs to be moved forward.
- Arenz: Pointed out that this requires a lot of effort and we may not reap the benefits from it due to how the budget development process works. CAF may choose to take or not take our advice. CAF's budget recommendations then go through many layers and changes before becoming the final Governor's Request Budget.
- Balter: We don't have a mechanism to prioritize POPs, but it is important that we be aware of them on behalf of our constituency groups. We can ask CAF to speak about them in an organized way under our priorities. We can comment back as individual members. This allows us to be more effective members and advocates.
- Arenz: And we are not then competing with each other over POP ranking.
- Serice: The POP matrix that is online is sorted by categories. Though not the same categories as CWAC's four priorities, that sorting may be helpful. It includes a brief description and dollar figures.
- Balter: It would be helpful to have a projector set up at the meeting to show members how to access this information.
- Serice: We can explain how we are rolling forward the needs-based budget from last time. We've added one step in the process. Because we don't have the resources needed to price every POP, we will select certain ones to seek department approval on. This will cull the list down to a manageable group to price. The other POPs will remain on the list. The Governor may choose some from the hold list and ask that we price them.
- Balter: So we are in agreement that our recommendation will be that CWAC not rank POPs as a committee, but that we ask CAF to provide what we need to have a well informed membership so members can advocate as individuals for the POPs they support.
- Arenz: It is a valid function of CWAC to make sure the constituency around its table is well informed.

- Serice: By the July CWAC meeting, the agency will have moved on from the budget reductions released today and may have the list of priority POPs ready to share with CWAC. The detailed narratives will be done in late July or August. The ARB is due September 1. We will send the narratives to CWAC as soon as they are ready.
- Balter: At the September CWAC meeting, the ARB will be shared with CWAC, but other information will be sent to CWAC as soon as it becomes available. Individual members can talk with the contact person for a particular POP to give input.

ACTION: FIWG's recommendation will be presented to CWAC for approval on 7/14/10. That recommendation is: CWAC will not rank POPs as a committee. CWAC requests CAF to provide what CWAC needs to have a well informed membership so members can advocate as individuals for the POPs they support.

DATA REPORT – DASHBOARD

- Day: She forwarded FIWG's request for a summary report of the dashboard for CWAC to Jerry Waybrant because his office uses it as a management tool in a way she does not.
- Serice: Someone suggested a tutorial on how to read the dashboard and we have a meeting internally to talk about that.
- Balter: We do need help to read the data that is available.
- Day: Jerry Waybrant offered to prepare a one page summary for each CWAC meeting. Then members can read the data in more detail if they want to. Jerry uses the dashboard as a program improvement tool in the field. There is also an equity dashboard, but it is not posted yet.

DATA REPORT – CW and CIRT Update to W&M

- Day: She will use this report as part of her OSM training for CWAC when she gets to that point of talking about lessons learned.
- Arenz: If some members have a particular interest on a topic, a conference call could be set up for them or they can ask FIWG to get it on a future CWAC agenda.

CWAC LETTER TO LEGISLATURE

Mike Balter and Pam Pearson will prepare a first draft based on the discussion above on POPs for FIWG review.

BRIEFING – FEDERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

Erinn may have something to share in her assistant director's report during the July meeting, but nothing is ready as of now.

BRIEFING – CASEY ROUNDTABLE REPORT OUT

Catherine Stelzer will have an update ready for the July CWAC. Lois will be available to orient CWAC to its contents.

BRIEFING – HOW TO IMPROVE CWAC'S INPUT ON MAJOR SYSTEM CHANGE

FIWG has not vetted the issue yet. It will not be on the May agenda, but will carry over to the August FIWG agenda.

CROSS OVER REPORT – FOSTER CARE SAFETY TEAM

As part of its review of the OSM, CWAC will consider the FCST's recommendations, particularly those that pertain to CWAC.

CROSS OVER REPORT – CHILD WELFARE RACIAL EQUITY TASK FORCE

Janet Arenz will lead time for members to reflect on the May 21 task force meeting. This time for reflection will be on the agenda under CWAC Work Plan Goal 1.

CROSS OVER REPORT – HB 2009 DHS / OHA TRANSITION

Much has been happening, but a report on the organizational structure will not be ready by July 14.

CROSS OVER REPORT – JUVENILE DEPENDENCY INTERBRANCH WORK GROUP

This group met on June 3. Erinn may have some materials to share with CWAC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Report on Workload Staffing Model

Workload staffing is in a POP. No report at this time.

Budget Update

Will be part of assistant director's report.

Miscellaneous

At the next FIWG meeting, we will look at which data reports, cross over reports and unfinished business can be removed from future CWAC agendas.

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.

Time on July 14 CWAC meeting from 10:00 – 10:45 for members' reflection on the May 21 Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force meeting. Lead: Janet Arenz.

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.

Mike Balter will give a brief report on the response he has received to his communication to the contacts of the local child welfare advisory committees.

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

Lois Day will give a one-hour training (11:00-12:00) on the key concepts of the OSM. See above discussion for details.

Meeting adjourned.