



**FINAL**

DHS Children, Adults and Families Division  
**Child Welfare Advisory Committee**  
May 11, 2011

Members

- |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dana Ainam             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Butler | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Hinsz    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry Moore                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelly Smith for<br>Tina Morgan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Arenz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leslie Currin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Maryanov  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rem Nivens                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Angela Sherbo                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Balter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Darland   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leola McKenzie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiffany Reiter for<br>Pam Patton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Taylor                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iris Bell   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leah Hall     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Moberly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Rasmussen                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nan Waller                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Burlingame       |   |  |  |   |

DHS / OHA Staff

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|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erinn Kelley-Siel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mickey Serice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benjamin<br>Hazelton for<br>Lois Day | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Kraus-Dorn | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Bouska |
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Minutes recorded by Pam Pearson

Guests: Terry Fennell

**MINUTES**

The March 9, 2011 CWAC minutes were approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Calendar

- Serice: The legislature may be requesting informational hearings for CAF and SPD. This morning we presented information for foster care and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and were invited to return to give more information on foster care.
- Balter: Asked when the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services might vote on the DHS budget.
- Serice: That is not known at this time. This session is unique in that some bills passed the policy committee, were referred to W&M and are now being heard there. W&M is planning to hear these bills first so they can factor them into the budget.
- Balter: When do they expect to end the session?
- Serice: He knows nothing beyond the rumors. If the May 12 revenue forecast shows an up tick, then session might last a little longer to make some decisions regarding the extra, unexpected revenue. When there is no extra money available, it tends to be a shorter session. The expectation is that it will not go beyond the end of June.

- Balter: What should we be looking forward to after session, not just legislatively, but natural benchmarks?
- Serice: With the fast pace of the session, we have not had a chance to look at what the new DHS will look like in much detail. We don't expect to have much on that until after session. Our leadership group is meeting to look across the new DHS to see how to handle the work with some efficiencies and with the reality that we may not get some of the vacant positions back.

## **BRIEFINGS**

### Legislative Activity

- Serice: Referred to his written legislative update.
  - HB 2051 and HB 2052 (regarding adoptions) have been consolidated. Legislative Counsel discovered an incongruence in the bills which has been fixed. We are not anticipating any problems with the consolidated bill moving forward.
  - HB 2053: Equity Task Force bill. It is in W&M. It is likely it will be scheduled without a public hearing so the committee will discuss the budget aspects of the bill rather than the policy aspects. DHS staff will be in the audience to answer questions.
  - HB 2047 is moving along.
  - HB 2048 and HB 2049 are TANF bills.
  - HB 2050 was a clean up bill for DHS on the definition of permanent foster care. It picked up some lint and so we are not moving the bill.
  - SB 964 is Sen. Bates' bill on differential response, an up front service to divert children from going into foster care. It doesn't go as far as our differential response initiative, but supports it very well.
  - SB 288 is Sen. Ferrioli's bill regarding access to child welfare records. It is on hold. Sen. Ferrioli and DHS have agreed to consult with Region X to make sure it does not jeopardize Title 4E funds. As of the deadline for work sessions to be scheduled for bills, we did not have Region X approval. We have agreed to move the bill to Senate Rules Committee as currently written with the same conditions of needing Region X approval. Mickey is not sure what will happen with this bill.
  - SB 538 is a TANF bill requiring some kind of drug test or screening to receive benefits. This concept comes up almost every session. This time it had some momentum, but did not make it past the deadline to be scheduled for a work session.

- HB 2183 is a bill regarding false reporting of child abuse. It has received a lot of public attention. DHS has not testified. One side says it will have a chilling effect on reporting. Another side says child abuse reporting is used in some domestic relations situations to pit parents against each other. No one is counting the number of times or extent to which that is occurring. DHS has not taken a position, but has been attending the hearings and giving information to committee members. The bill is likely to pass with amendments.
- Butler: HB 3471 has its first hearing scheduled for 5/12/11. This bill provides a tuition waiver for foster kids. She invited CWAC members to encourage legislators to pass the bill.
- Arenz: The work of the Oregon Commission on Children and Families for runaway and homeless youth looks to be moving to DHS. It is in W&M Subcommittee on Human Services. She is optimistic that these programs will receive funding comparable to last biennium.
- Moberly: A couple of bills that directly impact the CASA program: HB 3102 and HB 3086. HB 3102 made it to W&M. It moves CASA to the judicial branch with funds administered through DAS. A task force would decide the ultimate home for CASA and would make its recommendations during the 2012 legislative session. HB 3086 works with the Early Learning Council and we are asking for the same focus for CASA in that bill of a task force approach to determine CASA's ultimate home. With OCCF caught up in Early Learning Council activity, the CASA network is already moving to be more independent. The network is feeling good about these bills.
- Serice: HB 3086 as introduced is a racial equity bill, but Rep. Kotek is keeping it alive for the relating clause for the concept that Debbie Moberly described.

## **BRIEFINGS**

### OR-Kids

- Hazelton: The OR-Kids pilot has been on for about a month and has found many things to fix. At this point we do not have a go-live date. The Operational Leadership Council is evaluating it every two weeks. During the pilot, about 22 functions were not tested through normal use so we have to test those still.
- Taylor: What is the biggest challenge?
- Hazelton: Sometimes the system freezes and we don't know why. The good news is that the data conversion problems are mostly resolved.
- Darland: Has the form for health care reforms been tested?

- Hazelton: It is working to his knowledge. It was developed as part of the Medicaid transformation grant that ended March 31. It will be incorporated into the new system when it is launched. This is a health profile system that can be distributed to different parties including birth parents, foster parents, young adults and medical professionals. It automatically pulls from medical databases.
- Butler: Is the system to track allegations of abuse by providers working?
- Hazelton: Is not sure if it is working, but knows it is to be part of the system. Is not sure if it has been tested.

## **BRIEFINGS**

### CWAC Subcommittee on the Children's Justice Act

- Darland: The subcommittee met in April and drafted their recommendations for CWAC approval. They have two more meetings scheduled to plan for the next three year cycle. Helen Hoang is writing the annual report and finalizing how to spend the funds that must be spent by 9/31/2011. Another pot of money must be spent by 9/31/2012. Then a new three-year cycle begins for a new focus. The subcommittee is trying to do its best with minimal administrative help. We will get guidance from DHS on its focus.
- Balter: The annual report was passed to the Future Issues Work Group to move it forward quickly. The FIWG recommends CWAC approve the finalization of the annual report as is with fuller discussion and review in July. We do not have adequate time now to discuss the full report or reasons why certain activities were chosen. It requires approval from CWAC as the oversight group.
- Darland: The subcommittee had a lengthy discussion. He appreciates the trust conveyed by the recommendation to approve the report as is. Made a motion that CWAC approved the annual CJA report.
- Bell: Seconded.

**VOTE: All CWAC members voted in favor of approving the annual CJA report.**

## **BRIEFINGS**

### CWAC Subcommittee on the Foster Care Safety Team

- Butler: Leola McKenzie and she prepared the draft charter that is presented to CWAC today. They will be meeting with Lois Day to discuss staffing and what can actually be done to respond to the FCST's recommendations. They will

come back to CWAC when they have their final concept. The draft charter lists proposed subcommittee members and outlines their roles. Asked if anyone had any ideas for other membership.

- Balter: This is the very beginning of the subcommittee's structure and a great kickoff to letting us know where you are and the feedback you seek.
- Serice: On the first page of the draft charter, change the name of the proposed child attorney representative from Angela Long to Angela Sherbo.
- Moore: Asked for an explanation of the chart on page 2.
- McKenzie: Row 1 is the months – the subcommittee would meet monthly. It cross references with the list below the table.
- Balter: This will result in a quality assurance review to see if the agency is meeting standards and is just the type of work the advisory committee should be doing.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### Oregon Commission on Children and Families and the Early Learning Council

- Balter: Where is the OCCF moving?
- Bell: OCCF is talking with the Governor daily. We are waiting for the work of the design team and the identity of the Early Learning Council director. OCCF is supporting the transition and transfer of its work.
- Balter: Has there been any discussion on the roles of the local commissions?
- Bell: There is some legislation on the role of the local commissions. OCCF is advocating for the need for local commissions and local community involvement. We are seeing some traction on that as a necessary component. We don't yet know how it will look in the end.
- Balter: There are a number of CWAC members who have relationships with OCCF for funding streams. Alternate routes have been drafted, but there is no final direction yet on where any of this is headed.
- Bell: Conversations have occurred in the Governor's Office. Each of the related bills has had its own conversations, but there is no comprehensive understanding yet on the final direction.
- Balter: The risk is that the story out there is something has already been decided.
- Bell: It really has not. We try to get information out as we get it, but it changes daily and rapidly.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Report on Workload Staffing Model

- Balter: Has the workload staffing report been presented to the legislature?
- Serice: He will follow up to see if it has. If so, it will be on the DHS website.

## **CROSS OVER REPORTS**

### Wraparound

- Hazelton: The Wraparound report was completed last week. We will forward it to CWAC.
- Balter: We will add it to the next CWAC agenda for discussion and questions.
- Hazelton: The sites are demonstrations, not pilots. We are committed to this practice model; it is not something we are testing. We have funding to maintain the three sites. We also have ongoing workforce development for next biennium to engage other communities into the training, so even if we don't have the resources to fund additional sites, we can work together to speak the same language when we do eventually expand. The State of Washington is also trying to launch some wraparound communities. PSU is working with both Oregon and Washington on workforce development.

The Wraparound Report includes reporting to the legislature on full implementation. It reports a lack of progress in culturally competent service delivery. The outcome measure group hit some snags in some of the definitions and sought help from the Office of Multicultural Health. There is a commitment to remedy this by July 2011. The report also recommends interagency agreements for data sharing to see if this proactive model is helping kids across the whole system or in only some areas. We set a December 2011 goal for these agreements to be in place.

Not included in the report, but on the minds of the implementation team and the Wraparound Advisory Committee, are the challenges in maintaining their census – that not enough kids are staying in the cohort to make use of the wraparound services. There is pressure to get another group of kids identified that could qualify. The current cohort has fairly restrictive criteria. The cohort population are children who are in DHS custody for one year and have experienced four or more placements or are in their first year of DHS custody and are requiring increasingly intensive services within that year. We are looking at moving to a less restrictive criteria and using the wraparound model for those kids.

All legislation regarding health care reform and early learning use the same principles of engaging families, systems of care, community partners.

Whether wraparound specific or in the Early Learning Council, there is a commitment to use this practice model of family/youth driven care.

- Balter: Was the Wraparound Advisory Committee surprised that it was difficult to maintain the census? Was it difficult to engage families?
- Hazelton: They were surprised about the census. Each community projected how many kids they thought they would serve. Rogue Valley was the closest in matching capacity and need. As we look to expand the populations to serve, we want to make sure we hit the right target population.
- Darland: He talked with some parents and foster parents who have children that technically qualify but faced some barrier to submit their names. Is there talk with the caseworkers on that?
- Hazelton: That is worth looking at. We need more analysis on why we were not able to maintain the census and how to make it more accessible.
- McKenzie: Talked with Angela Long about the IV-E waiver and demonstration control group experimental studies. That may be a future topic for CWAC discussion.
- Balter: Asked Leola to bring that to the next FIWG meeting and that Lois Day and Mickey Serice guide the discussion.

## **CROSS OVER REPORTS**

### Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force

- Kelley-Siel: Provided a debrief on the Equity Task Force Report and implementation of its recommendations. Some key issues will require the legislature to engage with DHS. Our most recent data on kids in foster care shows some success in that the rate of entry of African American children decreased by 8%, but we still have a disproportionate number of African American children in care.

We saw a dramatic reduction in the number of Native American kids in care. Part of that is because of an intentional effort in self-identification and a data clean up; but also fewer are coming in and more are leaving care. The foster care rate is slightly up overall.

A statewide decision-point was created to look at trends. She will send it to CWAC.

There are things within child welfare itself that, if done differently, could produce different results for children of color. But there are disparities and inequities outside the child welfare system that create stress for families and there is a direct relationship to those and the numbers of children of color in the system. Examples: 1) families of color may not have access to domestic

violence services that respond to gender issues as their cultures define them and 2) poverty rates for people of color are dramatic and poverty is a main indicator of child maltreatment. The task force looked at root causes and structural inequities within the system, then also looked outside the system. They realized that even if we could make everything perfect in child welfare, we would still have those outside inequities. They found we have policies in place, but they are not adequately enforced. Affirmative action is one – we submit reports on affirmative action, but what happens to those reports?

A theme that came up is that these families and youth want to be more involved and want to have more of a voice, not only for their own cases but at the policy level.

One of the task force recommendations is for data-based decision making. A challenge for us is that we don't have consistent ways of collecting and reporting out data. For example, when child welfare clients self-identify their ethnicity as multi-ethnic, they are asked to pick a primary ethnicity. Self sufficiency and vocational rehabilitation services do not require that.

The task force recommendations on prevention apply to all children and include recommendations about how we intervene to be more supportive of families, help them find the cause and help them work with natural supports. That is what we call differential response.

The task force appreciates that policy makers may make decisions without understanding how those decisions can affect a population disproportionately. That is why we introduced HB 2053 to require a racial impact statement for new legislation. Had a racial impact statement been completed for Measure 11, it is possible the legislature would have taken a different path.

Other recommendations address workforce development and community relationships. We are working with PSU for staff training to help staff understand their inherent biases and how keeping them in check might result in different plans for families.

Regarding affirmative action, we have met our AA goals, but not in higher management positions.

Regarding community capacity, differential response could address the task force's recommendation of developing family supports specific to their communities. The Early Learning Council will also help families get those community supports.

Regarding accountability, a section of the task force report we have not tackled yet is how to create a plan in the agency and community that provides

for channels of accountability. The tribes are working on this, but we need to do it for other groups as well. This will help us make adjustments when we see what we are trying to do is not working.

- Balter: What is the progress of the legislative bills this session?
- Kelley-Siel: The racial impact statement legislation is in W&M. We don't have anyone right now in DHS equipped to prepare these statements, so we would need to bring someone in or train someone. Domestic violence services are profoundly impacted by cultural points of view so we must be careful in developing resources to serve these ethnic communities.
- Taylor: Asked about the decreased number of Native American children in care.
- Kelley-Siel: Has a paper she can share with CWAC that describes the data clean up and other things that contributed to the lower numbers. We have made some changes to rules regarding relatives. The definition of "home" was changed and increased relative guardianship, which is appealing to the Native American community because they do not believe in termination of parental rights and adoption. She will send CWAC a map of demographics showing that families of color are not only in the Portland area. As we make policy changes, we will think about racial disproportionality each time.

Our focus at the moment is the transition to the new DHS and making our way through the legislative session. If differential response legislation does not pass, we will look at other ways to implement it. TANF reductions will seriously impact families, especially if the 18-month limit passes. JOBS reductions may be as high as 60%, which will result in a whole cohort not getting any assistance other than cash assistance. We are giving up some prevention in TANF. The W&M co-chairs recognize that, but the deficit in TANF is very serious.

As CWAC considers next steps, you may want to consider what role CWAC can take, including using the lens of race and culture when looking at the activities of the two subcommittees.

Meeting adjourned.