

DATE: July 13, 2011

TO: CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: Mike Balter, CWAC Chair

RE: Proposed revision to CWAC Work Plan

Background: In a February 6, 2008 letter to DHS Director Bruce Goldberg, CWAC adopted four priorities for children in support of the Department of Human Services' goals.

- 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.

On July 8, 2009, during a full day CWAC meeting, CWAC drafted a 12-18 month work plan that was adopted on November 12, 2009. That work plan was based on the following four goals:

- 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.
- To expand the representativeness in CWAC discussions.
- To coordinate and leverage state and local efforts to improve policy, program, and practice.
- To advise DHS on the practice of the Oregon Safety Model (OSM).

The first goal of the work plan aligns the first CWAC priority.

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CWAC has met the 2nd and 3rd goals in its work plan. The CWAC membership is continually reviewed as member terms end in an effort to reflect a broad representation of perspectives of the child welfare system and, more recently, to include the requirements of the Children's Justice Act. Outreach to local advisory committees has been made and individual CWAC members have been encouraged to connect with these local efforts to improve child welfare program, policy and practice.

The fourth goal in the CWAC work plan falls under the work of the subcommittee that is looking at the Foster Care Safety Team's recommendations.

Many of the briefings and cross-over reports on CWAC agendas fall under one or more of the CWAC priorities.

Recommendation: The Future Issues Work Group recommends that CWAC adopt its four priorities as its Work Plan goals and format future meeting agendas accordingly.

Thank you.