

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

## **MINUTES**

The June 8, 2011 FIWG minutes were approved.

## **REVISION TO CWAC FOUR PRIORITIES**

- Balter: During the last CWAC meeting, there was recognition that CWAC's four priorities<sup>1</sup> don't include a statement about families. One notion that was proposed was to create an umbrella statement. Most work products are about children and the role of families is embedded in that work. We may want to look at the purpose of CAF and if it has a mission statement.
- Day: DHS has a mission statement but CAF does not.
- Balter: Is reluctant to get too far afield on statements because we are supposed to advise on the DHS mission or the CAF mission.
- Serice: The DHS mission is broader than CWAC's authority of advice on child welfare programs.
- Balter: Maybe there is another solution – to make a statement about the importance of families. Is not sure a new priority is wanted. The concern was a lack of mention of families in the current ones. What does DHS Child Welfare see as its role: to be child focused with family as a resource?
- Serice: Child centered, family focused.
- Day: The priority on preventing foster care placements could be designed to say that we first have a priority to preserve families. That is what differential response is about.
- Bell: How about “preventing foster care placements by preserving and serving families.”
- Day: Supporting families to safely parent their children in their homes so as to prevent foster home placements.

---

<sup>1</sup>

- › 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.

- Bell: The idea is to keep kids safe.
- Balter: Asked Lois to draft language.
- Bell: Make sure it doesn't go outside the scope of what Child Welfare does.
- Balter: Is there a "practice statement" – something that the agency uses when training protective services workers? A set of guidelines or parameters of your work?
- Day: We could say that one of our priorities is to work with families first to keep a child safe in the home before moving to the foster care system.

**ACTION: Lois Day will draft a revision to the second priority and route it to FIWG. It will be presented to CWAC on 9/14/11 for approval.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Calendar

- Serice: Correction needed on the sine die of the February 2012 session to March 5, 2012.
- Balter: At the next FIWG meeting we can talk about preparation for the 2012 session and E-Board.
- Butler: Will the February session will focus on budget?
- Serice: There will be a limited number of bills, too.
- Balter: Is the agency still adjusting to the budget, budget notes and passed legislation?
- Serice: Yes, and we are also gathering ideas for 2013 legislative concepts. We are sorting through what happened during the 2011 session, as we usually do after a session ends.

### Dashboard

- Day: Nothing to report at the September CWAC meeting. During the last CWAC meeting, we talked about the negative impact of the hiring freeze. We won't see the affect of hiring new staff and implementing OR-Kids for a few months.

## **BRIEFINGS**

### Legislative Update

- Serice: Has asked Ryan Vogt for an update on the hiring of the domestic violence advocates. He is not sure the staff will be hired by the next CWAC meeting.
- Day: We will have a differential response manager hired and will have some information on that to report.
- Balter: It is good to keep CWAC informed that things are moving forward.

### Federal Policy Discussion

- Day: Mentioned federal legislation proposed by Rep. Ron Wyden that she will share with FIWG. Can mention to CWAC that the IV-E waiver has been extended.

### OR-Kids

- Day: The update will give information about the work slow-down and payment issues to providers related to going live on August 29. No data reports will be available for several months.
- Balter: Frame the report in that way so it is not open to a general discussion and explain that reports are not available.
- Butler: Referred to Erinn Kelley-Siel's memo that explained the reasons for the August 29 go-live date as it relates to the payment schedule.
- Day: We do know we will have delays in payments because we have to take the system down for two weeks before the go-live date and then have to do input on the activity during those two weeks.
- Butler: Phase two implements the provider portal in six months, correct?
- Day: The go-live date set the date for phase 2, which will include other things in addition to the provider portal. One challenge is that not every provider is at the technological level of OR-Kids so training is needed.
- Balter: Asked for information about the work slow-down.
- Day: We have to take FACIS down several days before go-live with OR-Kids. That creates a window when no data can be input. So that data has to be input after OR-Kids is live. Also, more has to happen in the system for a case to flow. Other states have seen a slow down when they implemented their new systems as they get into the rhythm of the new system. It will be noticed when we are already at a 67% workforce. For example, supervisors have to sign off in OR-Kids for a case to move. Supervisors will need to adjust their schedules to be available to their computers in real time. Experts will be in every office when OR-Kids goes live. Another issue is that we have data conversion,

especially with contracts, that cannot be corrected ahead of time. We expect at least a 3-month slow down.

- Balter: It will be good to get that message to CWAC – that the agency is as prepared as it could be.
- Butler: Suggested a reminder to CWAC about the benefits of OR-Kids when it is fully implemented to see that the conversion will be worth the effort.
- Day: The number one benefit is that the feds will continue to pay for foster care. The system must be SACWIS compliant. The State of Indiana opted out of SACWIS, took the \$5 million penalty and is designing a Facebook-based system called Casebook. It allows parents access to what they are allowed to see.
- Balter: Are foster parents included among the providers required to do data entry?
- Day: No, not for data entry purposes. They are involved in the slow down of payments during the transition. Anyone who gets paid from Child Welfare, including foster parents, contracts, System of Care and one-time pays. The planning for launching OR-Kids included moving one payment date ahead a bit to give a bigger window for fixes before the next payment date. Financial Services has encouraged providers to sign up to get paid electronically, which would reduce some chances of not getting paid.

### **CWAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA)**

- Balter: Can someone help us understand the funding mechanism of CJA and what the funds can be spent on?
- Bell: Also, a timeline needs to be developed to bring the subcommittee's recommendations to CWAC in advance to allow time to vet and ask questions.
- Day: The subcommittee manages all that. The last CJA report was a one-time glitch due to the transition of moving CJA to a CWAC subcommittee and the deadline to spend old money. There seems to be some confusion, too, in the subcommittee with the new members not understanding that rhythm. Each year the agency gets new money to be spent during a three year period so the funds roll over each other. For now, we are committed with the priorities from the old cycle.
- Butler: CWAC should be reminded that the subcommittee does the vetting, not the full committee. They have been given that power.

- Bell: But they need to be able to communicate their plan. We will want to see how their plan fits in with the federal requirements and bigger priorities and if it is a good fit or marginal.
- Serice: Will ask the subcommittee to provide us with the key times when they should report to CWAC, like at the beginning or middle of a three year cycle.
- Day: That is a good idea. She will ask Helen Hoang to provide an outline of the federal requirements, how the CWAC bylaws allow for the subcommittee to make decisions and what CWAC can do, if anything, to override those decisions. She will also ask the subcommittee to get the key dates added to the calendar.
- Balter: CWAC's obligation is to approve the plan and the subcommittee is to operate under that plan. That would apply to other subcommittees, too. The federal requirement is that CWAC is the spender, not the subcommittee. But the subcommittee has been given wide latitude to use the dollars as long as it fits under that plan.
- Day: So we need to make sure the plan gets to the full CWAC in the timeline that matches when it has to be submitted to the feds.
- Balter: So CWAC can approve and discuss it far enough in advance.
- Day: After the feds approve a plan, we are committed to it for those three years. We cannot amend it after it has federal approval.
- Balter: Suggested subcommittee chairs be standing FIWG members. That will help us keep informed of what needs to come to CWAC.

**VOTE:** FIWG voted to approve the requirement that subcommittee chairs be standing FIWG members.

**ACTION:** Helen Hoang will provide:

- An outline of CJA federal requirements.
- How CWAC bylaws allow the subcommittee to make decisions and what CWAC can do to override those decisions.
- A list of projects and how they fit in with CWAC priorities.
- How the subcommittee can take CWAC feedback.

**Mike Balter will invite the CJA subcommittee chair to FIWG.**

**NOTE: The chair of the Safety in Foster Care Subcommittee is Pamela Butler and she is a current FIWG member.**

## **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE**

- Butler: The subcommittee charter is finalized and they are in the process of inviting membership. They hope to meet during the last quarter of 2011. There is no need for any CWAC approval at this time. They will submit reports to CWAC after they have conducted their case reviews. She will provide dates for the calendar of when reports to CWAC are expected.

## **CROSS-OVER REPORTS**

### HB 2009 and DHS/OHA Transition

- Balter: Tried to recall the comment about wanting special access to limited A&D resources for parents of child welfare children as the resources were moved from DHS to OHA.
- Bell: The catch 22 is requiring parents to get A&D treatment if no treatment is available. Bruce Goldberg talked with CWAC some time ago about reducing that barrier.
- Serice: HB 2009 did nothing to the amount of funding. Recalls the question was if there was a potential impact on reducing funds for child welfare clients for A&D treatment. A notice was sent to CWAC about work groups forming where those conversations would occur. The work groups are willing to have input as they do their work.
- Bell: Should CWAC send a letter to Bruce of our concerns and ask that it get to the right people before they make their decisions?
- Day: DHS has an agreement with AMH that AMH will prioritize child welfare clients for the resources that exist. It is not a policy, but an agreement between the two agencies.
- Serice: CWAC may want to write a letter if there are budget reductions.
- Bell: Should we send a letter now or when reductions are coming?
- Balter: Asked Pam Pearson to send FIWG the previous correspondence between CWAC and Bruce Goldberg. We can consider affirming what we said before and that we will be watching the budget process that may put these families at risk so as to be proactive now.
- Bell: Agrees with Mike's approach.
- Butler: Can FIWG get a copy of the interagency agreement?

- Day: Yes, she will get it from Jay Wurscher. The separation of DHS and OHA will jeopardize access only if there are reductions for everyone, but our clients will continue to be prioritized for the resources that are available.
- Balter: He will draft a letter that he will route to FIWG and Erinn Kelley-Siel before sending to Bruce Goldberg. It will be addressed to both Bruce and Erinn. Asked if there was anything else CWAC needs to do on the DHS / OHA transition.
- Day: Shared Services is the next thing we'll be looking at. She is not sure what might need CWAC attention at this moment.

- ACTION:**
- **Pam Pearson will provide Mike Balter with copies of the previous correspondence between CWAC and DHS regarding A&D resources for child welfare clients. (DONE 8/10/11).**
  - **Lois Day will provide FIWG with a copy of the interagency agreement.**
  - **Mike Balter will draft a letter from CWAC to Bruce Goldberg and Erinn Kelley-Siel reiterating CWAC's previous concerns and that CWAC will be watching the budget process that may put these families at risk. It will be routed to FIWG and Erinn for review.**

#### Juvenile Dependency Interbranch Work Group

- No discussion.

### **CAF ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Lois Day and Mickey Serice will determine what issues they will bring to CWAC during this report. By the next CWAC meeting there may be information on the structure of the new DHS and how Erinn plans to use the CAF assistant director position.

### **CWAC WORK PLAN**

- 1.** Identifying strategies to reduce over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.
- 2.** Preventing foster care placement.
- 3.** Assuring that children placed in foster care are safe and are thriving.

**4.** Providing permanency for children placed in foster care in a timely manner.

- Balter: Talked with Janet Arenz earlier about her being willing to work with Lois and Mickey on leading a CWAC discussion on the Equity Task Force report. CWAC was supportive of the recommendations and we need to make sure it doesn't fall of the screen.
- Day: Should we include Gloria Anderson?
- Serice: Yes.
- Balter: Does the Casey Partnership report tie in?
- Day: It is certainly a piece. Her office's strategic plan closely mirrors CWAC's goals. Differential response also ties in, as does SB 964 and other initiatives in DHS. CWAC received the Casey Roundtable report. Do you want us to talk about that or was the discussion last time enough?
- Balter: Most of the items placed here on the CWAC agenda are carry-over from past conversations. It may be time for us to step back and see how to organize our work along these four goals and what CWAC should pay most attention to. Asked Lois to provide her strategic plan in advance of the next meeting.
- Day: You would need Field Services' plan too. There is a connection between the two. Mentioned there is a scheduling conflict with the September CWAC meeting – a statewide managers meeting – that will probably mean no one from Field Services will be able to attend CWAC.
- Balter: Let's start with Lois' plan and then next time we can get Field Services' plan. Asked her to bring staff along as necessary.
- Day: Differential response, equity work and day-to-day work is in there. We are populating it with metrics to see if what we are doing is effective.
- Balter: That can help CWAC be better advocates at the next legislative session. What's missing for CWAC now is being able to support the agency on initiatives.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Day: Mentioned two new CIRTS are in process.
- Balter: Asked that Lois send an email to CWAC with the timelines for these CIRTS.

Meeting adjourned.