

Date: January 12, 2011

TO: Child Welfare Advisory Committee

FROM: CWAC Future Issues Work Group

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Foster Care Safety Team Report

Background: The Foster Care Safety Team's Report included four recommendations to the Child Welfare Advisory Committee. During the November 10, 2010, CWAC meeting, the committee asked the FIWG to work with CAF to decide how to manage these four recommendations.

The CWAC Future Issues Work Group met on December 8, 2010, and developed the following recommendation for CWAC consideration.

We recommend:

**CWAC establish a subcommittee that includes CWAC members who served on the Foster Care Safety Team and other interested members. As stated in the CWAC Bylaws, subcommittees may include participants outside of the Advisory Committee members with approval of the DHS/CAF Assistant Director.**

**We recommend that CWAC request CAF to provide updates at each CWAC meeting on the agency's work to implement all the recommendations of the Foster Care Safety Team.**

FCST Recommendation: Further study the transfer of abuse investigations to OIT or another independent body. Create pros & cons for each model and make recommendation to DHS.

**It is FIWG's understanding that CAF is moving forward on this recommendation because it was part of a recent CIRT. Therefore, CWAC need not act on this recommendation.**

FCST Recommendation: Create a formal, quarterly review process for founded abuse in foster care reports utilizing DHS staff and representatives from identified stakeholder groups.

FCST Recommendations: Explore creation of an external group to review foster care founded dispositions at least every six months and generate a report of findings & recommendations.

**The FIWG does not have a clear understanding why the Foster Care Safety Team made two similar but separate recommendations regarding reviews of founded abuse. We recommend a subcommittee be established to develop a process for a quarterly review of founded abuse in foster care. The subcommittee would also be responsible for deciding if and how an external group would review founded abuse in foster care every six months.**

FCST Recommendation: Regularly review a random but statistically relevant number of closed at screening files to provide outside oversight for the screening process.

**The FIWG recommends the subcommittee mentioned above also review closed at screening files.**

**The subcommittee will address the logistics such as the number of cases to review, how often to meet, how to report its findings, etc., for reviewing both founded abuse in foster care and closed at screenings. We recognize this work will require DHS staff support.**

Respectfully submitted by FIWG Members

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