

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)
Meeting Notes
February 8, 2024
In Person/Zoom Meeting

Members in attendance: Kristie Oliver, Chris Koeplin, Janee Harvey, Lori Frick, Natalie Clapp, Linda Dettmann, Mary Beth O'Neill, Chad Jensen, Nicki Enderle, Mylene Wanatee

Members not in attendance: Jana Rhodes, Emily Blomme

Summary of Meeting:

Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)

Erica Wenzl, HHS CFSR, IV-B, IV-E Program Manager presented on the 5-year Child and Family Services Plan. She shared that the CFSP is HHS' plan on what we hope to accomplish over the next five years for children and families. She reviewed the Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives. Erica shared that the Vision Statement from the 2020-2024 CFSP was the Families First Blueprint. This Vision Statement is still relevant in how we move the needle forward in child welfare here in Iowa. Therefore, our Vision Statement will remain the same, "Family Connections are Always Strengthened and Preserved."

HHS position changes and future planning re: realignment

Dawn Kekstadt, HHS Child Welfare and Community Supports Bureau Chief has changed positions within HHS. Her last day as Bureau Chief was January 18th. Doug Wolfe, HHS Transition Program Manager has taken the lead on some of Dawn's duties since her last day. Lori shared that Dawn's position should be filled by next week. Doug will also be taking on a new role in the Bureau of Transformation, Division of Strategic Operations. His position has been listed and there have been several applicants. He will be transitioning into his new role over the next month. Erica Wenzl, CFSR, IV-B, IV-E Program Manager is leaving HHS and her last day will be February 22, 2024.

Matt Highland, Chief of Strategic Operations is leaving HHS. With his departure and other recent changes there will be refinements to the organization structure. Please see the updated [org chart here](#).

Implications related to legislative changes (AEA changes, childcare, nursing home)

Janee shared that the AEA bill is the governor's bill and she has not been directly involved in those conversations. We will have to wait and see if the bill passes. She shared that we have also not been a part of any conversations around cameras in facilities.

Development opportunities/decision making process

Agenda item moved to the March meeting.

SSG-Title IV-E Recommendations Report/Behavioral Health System Alignment Assessment

Janee shared that the SSG report was sent out to FCS providers. She stated that we have been working with SSG for the last year. They have made specific recommendations for HHS. The focus of the assessment was to provide recommendations to maximize drawdown of federal funds for Iowa. Their report focused on four priority areas: Family Centered Services contracts, Iowa Parent Partner Program, Home Visiting Programs, and Health and Human Services social work case management staff utilizing Motivational Interviewing. The most impactful change to

note will be the transition from Solution-Based Casework (SBC) to Motivational Interviewing (MI). HHS expects to change the FCS contracts from SBC to MI starting July 1st. HHS team members will also be trained in MI.

HHS also contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA) to study the delivery of health and human service programs in our state. The System Alignment Assessment report and recommendations can be viewed [here](#).

Residential Tours & Conversations with Dr. Hess

Provider members shared that they are having trouble getting some providers engaged. Providers discussed having people report out on what they have learned and how they have implemented what they learned to other providers. Some of this has been happening organically.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024 -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM
In person @ Ellipsis North (Johnston) /via Zoom