

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)
Meeting Notes
April 12, 2024
Zoom Meeting

Members in attendance: Kristie Oliver, Chris Koeplin, Janee Harvey, Natalie Clapp, Linda Dettmann, Mary Beth O'Neill

Members not in attendance: Lori Frick, Chad Jensen, Mylene Wanatee, Nicki Enderle, Jana Rhoads, Emily Blomme

Summary of Meeting:

Legislative Progress/Needs

The HHS Appropriations Bill came through this week in both the House and the Senate. It looks a lot different than it has in the past. There are 5 million additional dollars in the House Bill than there is in the Senate Bill. The House Bill gave money to foster care and also supports the Supervisor to Caseworker ratio of 5-1. This aligns with Casey Family recommendations. The Appropriations Bill gave \$500,000 out of TANF dollars to child abuse prevention to start building out statewide primary prevention. The House bill gave \$750,000 out of the TANF appropriation to a Family Housing Preservation Program. The direct legal representation for children over age 10 Bill died, however Janee expects we may see it again next year. The narrowing of CINA Bill also died.

Residential Intercept Meetings

Chris shared the provider proposal for these meetings. QRTP and PMIC providers will send decision-makers to a twice weekly call with shelter providers and HHS leadership to identify the best next step for residential treatment for specific youth in care. Meetings will take place on Monday and Thursday mornings 8:45 am- 9:15 am. Janee says it's fine to use initials for the youth during the meetings as they will be treatment oriented. Chris inquired if HHS field staff will want to be engaged prior to a final decision being made. Janee and Lori will talk with the SAMs and if HHS field staff have strong feelings about this, they will make time to attend these meetings.

The proposal includes the following participants in the meetings: QRTP/PMIC staff who are able to make admission decisions regarding specific youth, Shelter (caseworkers or other program staff who can quickly identify opportunities and challenges regarding specific youth), Steve Sherman from HHS Helpdesk, QRTP/Shelter/SAL Program Manager, and SW IVs from each of the 5 Service Areas.

Complex Youth Care Assessments

HHS has partnered with the University of Iowa (UI) to complete Complex Youth Care Assessments at their Complex Care Clinic for Youth (CCCY). UI CCCY will identify and arrange appropriate medical assessments for the youth and provide assessment information to the youth and their caregivers including recommendations for ongoing services. The UI is accepting 4 referrals a month. Steve Sherman and Derek McComas are meeting twice a month to review the referrals that have been submitted and will prioritize based on need. So far there have been 11 referrals made and 9 youth have been accepted for an assessment. 2 youth were deferred because they may benefit from something other than a complex youth assessment.

Law Enforcement and JCS Support

Topic moved to next month.

HOPE Training at Four Oaks

Hope Champions training will take place on May 22nd and May 23rd from 9 am- 4 pm at 385 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA. Project Harmony has a grant to create HOPE champions. It is a train the trainer model. Josh Pedretti from Families First has attended the training. Project Harmony also received an additional grant that will cover 16 counties.

HHS has a contract with the University of Oklahoma- Dr. Chan Hellman regarding the HOPE project. Shelley Horak, HHS Director of Early Intervention and Support is incorporating HOPE Science throughout her Early Intervention team. There will also be HOPE training for Income Maintenance staff. Every Division was assigned to implement at least one project that aligns with HOPE Science. Family Well-Being and Protection is reworking the case permanency plan by using SMART goals. HOPE also syncs up nicely with Motivational Interviewing. Family Well-Being and Protection is making the transition from Solution-Based Casework to Motivational Interviewing.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024 -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM in person- Ellipsis/via Zoom