

Meeting Agenda

Division: Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

Meeting Topic: Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

Facilitator: Linda Dettmann

Date: October 10, 2024

Time: 1:00- 3:00 pm

Location: Lucas Building, 321 E. 12th St. Des Moines, IA 50319/via Teams

Meeting Participants

Kristie Oliver, Chris Koepplin, Janee Harvey, Natalie Clapp, Linda Dettmann, Mary Beth O'Neill, Nicki Enderle, Emily Blomme, Jana Rhoads

Members not in attendance: Lori Frick, Chad Jansen, Mylene Wanatee

Observers: Kim Scorza, Ashley Johnson

Agenda Topic and Items

HHS leadership visits to facilities

Emily inquired about purpose for Melanie Lord (HHS Foster Care Transition Program Manager) and Katie Swanson's (HHS Youth Residential Setting Program Manager) visits to the QRTPs and shelters. Janee shared that the visits were likely because Melanie and Katie are new to their positions. They would like to become acquainted with the staff and see each of the settings in person.

System services and capacity changes

Mary Beth shared that Four Oaks is struggling because of system capacity. They are desperately trying to find solutions and relief. Mary Beth will be writing a letter to Chad Jensen with a proposal about South Oaks houses and the girls. She expressed that it's about the safety of kids and collaboration amongst providers/JCS/HHS.

Committee members discussed the Detention Screening Tool. Youth have to meet the criteria in the tool in order to be detained. The tool appears to be interpreted differently depending on the county. Kristie shared that the Juvenile Justice group is meeting next week. She will discuss the Detention Screening Tool at the meeting.

Janee shared that HHS is exploring “Assessment Centers” which would be for all youth not just youth in foster care. Assessment Centers identify underlying issues and needs of youth and families and partner with them to access individualized, community-based supports and services. The aim would be to prevent JCS and child welfare involvement. Assessment Centers can disrupt pathways by intervening through schools, at point of or after arrest, at the request of parents/caregivers, or through partnerships with other community stakeholders.

HHS is also looking at PRTF (Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility) standards with SSG right now.

Communication changes and needs

Emily shared that she would like to discuss how important information from HHS should come to providers. She shared that as soon as the information goes out to HHS providers should know too. Janee shared that she has her distribution lists that she sends information out to and expects that the information will be cascaded down to the broader group of providers. She shared that she sends information to Kathy Thompson for the judges, to the AG’s office for county attorneys, to Jeff Wright for the GALs and to Kristie Oliver for Coalition members.

Members discussed the YSS bed changes that came from Andrew Allen. Janee shared that she did not find out about the changes until that Friday, the same day as the providers. She did not have advance notice.

Kim Scorza shared that Crittenton Center is looking to add more shelter beds. It’s still in discussion with HHS at this time.

“Whiteboard mapping of future system”

Mary Beth shared that she feels as though the changes to the Behavioral Health System seem very gray right now. A lot of the issues that are discussed in CWPC are Behavioral Health issues not necessarily child welfare issues.

During our next meeting, members would like to discuss what purpose the conversations of CWPC serve as well as membership guidelines, terms and rotation.

Safe Kids

Janee shared a CPS townhall PowerPoint presentation and walked through what Safe Kids is. Safe Kids is the name that HHS has given the effort that they’re going to be doing around improving some of our outcomes in the Child Protective Services (CPS) arena. Safe Kids is going to be a portfolio of projects that have come together as a result of two years of data analysis and information collection. The information collection has come through a very committed and long journey that included a number of

listening sessions around the state with a variety of team members. HHS heard some really important themes and trends across the entire state. Through the listening sessions, HHS decided they needed to bring in a vendor to help answer the critical question, are families better off because we knocked on their door? The vendor that was brought in was CIA (Change and Innovation). The themes that CIA heard were pulled together and ultimately submitted in a finalized report that HHS received earlier this year.

The portfolio of projects will have five areas of focus. HHS is committed to increasing capacity, increasing efficiency, increasing specialization, increasing standardization and increasing morale on the CPS team. Director Garcia is the executive sponsor of the Safe Kids portfolio. Information regarding the specific portfolio projects will be developed and shared by December of this year.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2024 -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM
In person- Lucas Building/via Teams