

Meeting Agenda

Division: Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

Meeting Topic: Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

Facilitator: Linda Dettmann

Date: December 12, 2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

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

Meeting Participants

Kristie Oliver, Chris Koepplin, Janee Harvey, Natalie Clapp, Linda Dettmann, Mary Beth O'Neill, Emily Blomme, Jana Rhoads, Lori Frick, Chad Jensen, Mylene Wanatee

Members not in attendance: Nicki Enderle

Observers: Kim Scorza, Jen Royer

Agenda Topic and Items

System Changes

YSS Shelter has 8 beds and will remain open through the end of March. They will be staying in Ames. Emily inquired if HHS has data on kids in shelter that are not placed in their service area. Janee shared that data can be accessed through a formal RFI. QRTP providers would also like this information.

Lori discussed HHS Staffing changes. HHS is working on hiring ahead instead of filling positions once they are vacant. HHS will be hiring Social Work Associates that will go to each shelter. These will be new positions. Matt Majeski, the Service Area Manager (SAM) in the Cedar Rapids service area left the agency on 12/5. Mindy Druschel has been hired as a 3rd SWA in this service area. Lori will be the interim SAM until a new SAM is hired next year. Lori has a meeting scheduled with the judges in this service area. She is looking to find out what is the breakdown in the level of trust with HHS. Cedar Rapids has a lot of removals, Family Interactions, and court ordered drug testing. An interim SAM will be hired in the Western Service area after the 1st of the year as Tom Bouska is retiring in January.

HHS Legislative Initiatives

Janee shared that there is a bill related to High Acuity Youth which will be headed by Sarah Reisetter. HHS is looking to improve safety of youth. It's called the Behavioral Health Residential Treatment for Youth bill.

Providers inquired about GAL Legislation. There will likely be a bill regarding Client Directed Legal Representation. The Coalition supports this bill and Kristie will be meeting with Carrie Malone to discuss. Janee meets with Director Garcia every Tuesday morning. She will find out her position on this bill.

Kinship Services/Licensing of providers

Natalie shared that during the Kinship Licensing Workgroup meeting last week there was a discussion around making Kinship Support Services mandatory for families. Natalie expressed concerns this may cause unintended consequences to FCS providers. Janee stated that she has not been made aware of this recommendation and shared that any recommendations that are made by the group must be approved by leadership.

Foster Resources

Mary Beth and Jen shared that Operation Santa has really exploded this year. They have received 2600 wish lists from kids in care. Mary Beth requested assistance from CWPC members and their networks with finding more community resources throughout the state. Resources can be emailed to Mary Beth and/or Jen.

CCWIS Update

Janee shared that the development of VISION is slow and steady. HHS is working on outsourcing the project and is working on the development of an RFI.

Communication Strategies

Janee discussed the Safe Kids Portfolio and shared that she would like the updates to happen at CWPC.

Members discussed training and Janee shared that new HHS workers must undergo 200 hours of training. Providers stated that their staff are not aware of the amount of training that HHS workers undergo. They would like to learn more in order to share with their staff. Jackie Stubbers, the HHS training manager will be invited to the next CWPC meeting to provide a high-level overview of the HHS new worker training process. Providers and JCS will also provide an overview of their onboarding training plans.

CWPC changes and needs

Members discussed the CWPC guidelines and membership terms as they need to be updated. Emily and Janee will meet prior to our next meeting and come up with a proposal for the committee to consider.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2025 -12:00 PM- 3:00 PM
In person- Lucas Building/via Teams