

Meeting Agenda

Division: Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

Meeting Topic: Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

Facilitator: Linda Dettmann

Date: April 10, 2025

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, Nicki Enderle, Natalie Clapp, Linda Dettmann, Mary Beth O'Neill, Emily Blomme, Lori Frick, Chad Jensen, Mylene Wanatee

Members not in attendance: Janee Harvey

Observers: Jen Royer, Ashley Johnson

Agenda Topic and Items

Legislative Session Updates

Chad shared that HF 298 was signed. This bill was for an act relating to the placement of a child who is the subject of a pending delinquency petition in a supervised apartment living arrangement pursuant to a consent decree, and the circumstances under which the placement is paid by the state. HF 801, which required juvenile courts and HHS to screen all children for commercial sexual exploitation after complaints that the child has been abused or committed a delinquent act has died. SF 1099, a bill related to school safety by requiring the creation of threat assessment teams and authorizing information sharing between certain governmental agencies is still pending.

Lori shared that HF 833, the High Acuity Youth bill has died. HF 389, Child Abuse at Schools bill has also died. This would have required HHS to complete assessments on allegations of physical abuse and sexual exploitation. HF 638, Requires courts to prioritize a foster parent who has had placement of child for 9 months. This bill is still pending. Lori shared that HHS requested 5 Family Finding Specialists, one for each of the Service Areas. The legislature only approved 2.

Members had a discussion regarding the impact of the Medicaid Rate Review Process and the fiscal impact it would have. Mary Beth shared that providers are continuing to educate about the unintended consequences in terms of access to therapists.

Federal HHS reductions & other impacts

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has reduced its regional offices from 10 down to 5. HHS is closing regional offices in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New York City, San Francisco, and Seattle. This is part of a broader plan to streamline HHS operations, including consolidating divisions and centralizing certain functions. There are also proposals to cut federal funding for both TANF and the Social Services Block Grant programs.

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Initiatives

Lori shared that several workgroups have been formed out of the Change and Innovation (C!A) assessment recommendations. There is one for Intake/Assessments and one for Adoption/Ongoing services. Both groups will be looking to create efficiencies. HHS is also working on redesigning the Drug Testing Program. A workgroup will be looking at the Drug Testing Protocol/Policy Manual and updating it to better align with the START (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams) guidelines/recommendations.

Sellers Dorsey is working with HHS on the FCS redesign project. Lori shared that this is new and up and coming and the project team is meeting every other week.

Chad shared information about the Georgetown Crossover Youth Project. Georgetown put together a proposal for training and technical assistance on the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), which targets the realignment of agencies to better service crossover youth, young people who are dually involved with child welfare and youth justice entities. Georgetown is proposing engagement in a strategic change management process to align the principles, standards, and practices of Iowa HHS and Iowa JCS with the goal of enhancing the agencies' individual and collective approaches to support crossover youth.

Roles & Responsibilities Document

A Kinship Support Roles & Responsibilities document has been developed by HHS regarding the Kinship Caregiver Payment and Kinship Navigator programs. Providers inquired if it was possible to expand this to other Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice contracts. Lori shared that she would discuss this with Kristin Konchalski, CPS Policy Bureau Chief.

Membership Criteria & Next Steps

CWPC will have a few upcoming provider openings. CWPC also needs to fill the SAM position as Jana Rhoads retired. As spots become vacant, members will have a brief discussion to generate ideas for potential new members, such as perspectives on

missing services, geographic location and organizational size. Linda will send an email to provider leadership notifying them that there are openings on CWPC. Linda will provide information on CWPC, including membership expectations and the application process.

Training Collaboration Update

Ashley Johnson, CWPTA Director of Learning and Evaluation shared that HHS, JCS and the CWPTA are now meeting every other month to discuss training opportunities and needs.

Celebrating Chris's Contributions

Chris Koeplin is leaving Ellipsis and therefore will no longer serve on the CWPC. Kelly Hannan will serve as the next CEO of Ellipsis, effective April 28th. Chris will remain with Ellipsis until the end of May to support the transition.

Members thanked Chris for not only her contributions to the CWPC, but also to the provider community as a whole. Members wished Chris well in her next endeavor.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025 -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM
In person- Lucas Building/via Teams