

Meeting Notes

Division: Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

Meeting Topic: Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

Facilitator: Linda Dettmann

Date: December 11, 2025

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

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

Meeting Participants

Kristie Oliver, Emily Blomme, Natalie Clapp, Nicki Enderle, Chad Jensen, Steve Kramer, Janée Harvey, Shawn Hollenkamp, Sara Persons, Kim Scorza, Travis Heaton, Linda Dettmann

Members not in attendance: Lori Frick, Mylene Wanatee

Agenda Topic and Items

Overview of CWPC and New Co-Chair

Emily and Janee provided an overview on the background and the work of the Child Welfare Partners Committee.

Emily shared this would be her last meeting and that a new co-chair will need to be selected. Emily has been on the CWPC since 2018. Members selected Natalie Clapp as the new co-chair. Members also selected Kristie Oliver as Natalie's back-up.

Legislative Initiatives for HHS

Janee shared that the Division of Family Well-Being and Protection (FWB&P) will not be bringing forth any bills this upcoming Legislative session. FWB&P may support other bills that are brought forth.

Executive Order- Foster the Future for American Children and Families



Janee shared that the President signed the Executive Order, however it was written by the First Lady. Janee provided an overview of what the order entails which includes the need for more efficient child welfare technology, the need to build out electronic repositories for kids aging out of our system and increasing foster homes to include one foster home for every foster child.

Janee shared that Iowa will be making a big announcement soon regarding the VISION system. She discussed the other work that is already underway in Iowa including streamlining the licensing process, looking at the 30 hours of required pre-service training, and the Family Finding Specialist pilot in the Western Service Area. Greg Baker, Executive Vice President of The Family Leader is bringing forth a bill to eliminate the required training hours to allow it to be at the discretion of HHS.

First 60 days of new HHS Director/Medicaid Director update and any imminent changes

Janee shared there were no imminent changes to expect from Director Johnson. He did not come in with his own mission or vision as Director Garcia had. She shared that Director Johnson is very pragmatic and technically sound. He supports the initiatives/projects that are already underway in FWB&P.

Janee shared that Director Lee Grossman came from Wyoming. He is very personable and approachable. She cannot speak on his priorities but is not aware of any imminent changes.

Foster Parent Training Changes

See above.

Early Intervention and Support

Janee shared information on the work being done by Shelley Horak's team. She talked about Thrive Iowa and the Restore Hope Model. Local alliances are established in each community to share data, co-create solutions, and drive population-level change. Thrive Iowa will deploy local navigators who will work within their communities to respond to families with simple and complex needs.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 2026 -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

In person- Lucas Building/via Teams