

# Meeting Notes

**Division:** Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

**Meeting Topic:** Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

**Facilitator:** Natalie Clapp/Linda Dettmann

**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Time:** 1:45 pm -3:00 pm

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

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## Meeting Participants

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Kristie Oliver, Natalie Clapp, Nicki Enderle, Lori Frick, Chad Jensen, Janée Harvey, Shawn Hollenkamp, Sara Persons, Mary Beth O'Neill, Travis Heaton, Mylene Wanatee, Ashley Johnson, Linda Dettmann

**Members not in attendance:** Kim Scorza

## Agenda Topic and Items

### Central Consult Model Overview

Lori provided an overview on Central Consult Model. She shared that it was created from our connection with CIA. There will be 10 Central Consult Specialists across the State. These Specialists will provide expert telephone consultations with Child Protection Workers (CPWs) who have determined a family or child abuse assessment will conclude as “safe” and be categorized as either not confirmed or confirmed with low to moderate risk. During these consultations, the Central Consult unit will ensure all required assessment work is complete and, when appropriate, will finalize and close the assessment. This will help bring relief to the field. Staff have been hired, and they are currently completing training and practice work. Des Moines Service Area will start next week, followed by Eastern and Cedar Rapids Service Areas. Western and Northern Service Areas will begin by March.

### Tribal Contacts/Resources for ICWA cases

Mylene shared that she can provide resources for the Meskwaki tribe. She stated they meet quarterly with HHS staff in the Cedar Rapids Service Area. Mylene shared that

Sami Magpie, HHS ICWA Program Manager, is the best person to reach out to for ICWA resources across the state. Travis Heaton shared that in the Western Service Area they have two Native American liaisons. They also have monthly meetings. It was noted that it would be helpful if FCS providers could be brought into these meetings.

### **QRTP moving from TOPS assessment to CANS assessment**

Kristie presented a proposal regarding the transition from TOPS to the Comprehensive CANS 3.0 for QRTP. She shared that the Coalition has developed a phased implementation proposal through the Child Welfare Provider Training Academy (CWPTA) after consultation with:

- Praed Foundation (TCOM/CANS training arm under the University of Chicago)
- Four Oaks (current CANS user)
- Other States (who utilize CANS)

Kristie shared that the Coalition will centrally coordinate and fund an initial CANS Train-the-Trainer (TOT) which will be delivered virtually. It will be a 2-day virtual training delivered in March 2026. This will ensure QRTP providers are trained and ready for implementation by the April 1 effective date. She reviewed the costs and the option for a Co-Training for Initial Staff Certification. Kristie shared that Praed Foundation will need confirmation by tomorrow if Iowa intends to secure March Train-the-Trainer dates. Lori asked Kristie to send an urgent email to Janée and Kristin K seeking approval.

### **Legislative Updates**

A Subcommittee Meeting was held today on House File 623 (Early Childhood Program). Janée gave a presentation on a proposed amendment. Kristie and Mary Beth shared that this meeting went better than the last one. It passed out of Subcommittee today.

### **Coalition award for HHS/JCS workers**

Kristie shared that the Coalition would like to create an award for JCO worker of the year and HHS worker of the year. Lori and Chad both expressed they are grateful for any opportunity to thank field staff for their hard work. Kristie shared that agencies would submit their nominations over the summer. The Coalition HR workgroup would decide who the awards will go to, and they will be given out in the fall.

### **Update on All-Contractors Meeting**

Natalie provided an update on the All-Contractors Meeting which is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>. Anthony President will be facilitating the meeting. Anthony understands both the audience and the purpose of the meeting. It will be a facilitated, interactive “day of connection” focused on building/rebuilding relationships across HHS and provider partners, grounded in the theme *Family Connections Are Always Strengthened and Preserved*.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 9, 2026 -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM  
In person- Lucas Building/via Teams