

Meeting Notes

Division: Division of Family Well-Being & Protection

Meeting Topic: May 2026 Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

Facilitator: Linda Dettmann

Date: 5/14/26

Time: 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

Location: Lucas Building- 321 East 12th St. Des Moines/Microsoft Teams

Meeting Participants

Child Welfare Partners Committee Members

Agenda Topic and Items

FCS Transition & Weekly Workgroup Update

Mary Beth provided an update on the FCS contract transition. Sara Buis, FCS Program Manager has been facilitating weekly meetings. There are two separate meetings, one group is working on the FCS contract finalization, and one is working on developing the training curriculum for the new contract. There will be joint trainings held in each Service Area with HHS and FCS co-facilitating. The trainings will be held at the end of May/beginning of June. Mary Beth shared that provider agencies will try to pick up cases early to have the least disruption in services to families.

Legislative/Budget/Session Update

Janee and Clarice provided an update on the FWBP bills that have been signed by the Governor.

HF1003- This bill relates to child placements. It prohibits a court from placing a child with a different foster parent/relative who has given a child foster care for nine months unless the court makes a specific finding that it is due to the best interests of the child.

HF 1036- Combatting Human Trafficking Measures. This bill directs the Office of Human Trafficking in DPS to hold annual meetings with stakeholders, to make legislative proposals, progress reports and a final report in 2030. It appropriates \$750,000 to the AG and the Office for a joint unit to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases and to collect data. It extends the statute of limitation for abuse/trafficking of a minor to five years after the victim reaches the age of 18. It extends other SOL for minors to five years after the age of majority. This bill allows courts, or the court designee, to order the screening of a child for commercial sexual exploitation using a standardized check list. It requires HHS to order the screening of a child for commercial sexual exploitation using a standardized check list after abuse reports. It also requires HHS to develop a plan with non-profits on restoration services for trafficking victims.

SF 542- A bill relating to the suspension of child support and medical support in certain circumstances. If the court transfers custody or physical care of a child to a person who is ordered to pay support for the child, the juvenile court shall, upon request of the person ordered to pay support, file a notice of change of custody so that the payor may request a suspension of support.

SF 2488- A bill related to Early Childhood and Family Services, including the creation of an Early Childhood and Family Services System. This bill eliminates the decategorization initiative. It details how moneys available for a decategorization initiative will be made available or appropriated to HHS and JCS.

IV-E Funding Draw Down & System Sustainability Discussion

Janee shared that Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) has 34 locally based districts. They've been using Evidence Based home visiting services. She shared that they are doing the hard work but not drawing down for it. She shared that a workgroup will be coming.

Out-of-State Placement Trends & Capacity Discussion

Kristie shared that provider perception is that there are a lot of kids placed out of state that they do not know about. Janee asked Kristie to think through some of the data requests that providers have and send her a list. Kristie will discuss with the residential workgroup this Monday.

A Home for Every Child Initiative/ Public-Private Partnership Opportunities

Iowa has joined the “A Home for Every Child” initiative. It’s a federal child welfare program led by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). It aims to establish a 1:1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in the system. The program focuses on preventing children from entering foster care, prioritizing kinship care, and recruiting and retaining foster families. Janee shared that this initiative aligns with Iowa efforts that are already in place.

CPC Audit Update/ JCS QRTP Discussion

Chad shared that the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) Audit was developed by the University of Cincinnati. They are comparing and rating programs based on ideal models. They are identifying areas of the program that are really strong and also identifying areas for improvement. He shared that he has not yet received JCS’ results. Woodward and Four Oaks have both completed the audit process and are awaiting results.

Future Role of CWPC- Collaborative Reflection & Strategic Discussion During Transition

Kristie stated that Iowa will be entering a period of transition since we will have a new governor this year. Janee shared the importance of HHS and providers maintaining healthy/strong relationships as we enter uncertain times. This will be an important time to ensure alignment between HHS and providers.

Next Meeting: June 11, 2026