

# Meeting Notes

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

**Meeting Topic:** June 2026 Child Welfare Partners Committee Meeting

**Facilitator:** Linda Dettmann

**Date:** 6/11/26

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

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

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## **Meeting Participants**

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Child Welfare Partners Committee Members

## **Agenda Topic and Items**

### **CWPC Membership Applications**

Members discussed the 3 provider membership applications that were received. After careful consideration of Service Area coverage and the geographic diversity needs of the committee to ensure a statewide perspective on child welfare services, 2 new members were selected. Jenni DeBoer, Senior Director of Program Operations at Boys Town and Kelly Hannan, CEO of Ellipsis were both selected. They will receive a welcome email and will be invited to the August CWPC meeting which will include a brief orientation.

### **All Contractors Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps**

Kristie shared overview of the All Contractors Meeting Evaluations. Approximately 84% reported improved relationships with providers and HHS staff, 83% reported increased understanding of family connection practices, and 83 % left with practical ideas they could apply in their work. Participants most valued networking, relationship-building activities, small-group discussions, and the keynote presentation. Participants would like

to see more structured networking time next year. Lynn Bell, HHS Service Area Manager, and Natalie Clapp, Families First will be chairing and planning the event again next year. Members want to be sure to pick a date the JCS is also able to attend.

### **Family Centered Services (FCS) Implementation Update**

Mary Beth shared she is excited about the tiered intensity of services. Providers are digging into the weeds of the new contract. They are looking at how it is going to work on the ground. Kristie shared that she is receiving numerous emails with questions that are not always getting the same consistent answers. She suggested a standard communication process, possibly a FAQ to improve the process on both ends.

### **YTDM/YCPM Alignment Discussion**

Members discussed the overlap and differences between Youth Transition Decision Making (YTDM) and Youth Centered Planning Meetings (YCPM). Shawn and Mary Beth noted it would be helpful for leadership and direct staff to understand the “why” behind the differences so staff can explain and implement the correct process depending on whether the youth is involved with HHS or JCS. Kristie shared that the Training Academy is updating the YTDM training along with YSS/AMP. She stated that they realized there may be an opportunity to better understand and communicate how YTDM and YCPM’s align, where they differ, and why those differences exist. Chad shared that JCS is in the process of procuring YCPM statewide and that Stephanie Terronez is the JCS point person for YCPM. Kristie will send an email to connect Stephanie with Ashley Johnson from the Training Academy so the two can begin to look at creating a simple side-by-side comparison document of YTDM and YCPM.

### **Residential Capacity & Emerging System Pressures**

Kristie shared that shelter providers have reported seeing longer lengths of stay since Director Garcia’s departure. Janee was able to pull up JCS and HHS shelter and QRTP data. The data reflected that this information on seeing longer lengths of stay since Director Garcia’s departure was not accurate. Numbers have been consistent. Janee agreed to email the data to CWPC members.

## **Prevention and Early Intervention Vision**

Kristie asked Janee to share the Early Intervention and Support vision. Janee suggested inviting Shelley Horak, the Early Intervention and Support Director to a Coalition Meeting. Kristie will reach out to her and make the request.

## **HHS Workforce Stability & Safe Kids Workforce Update**

Janee shared she is not aware of there being a current HHS workforce issue. She discussed the career ladder with the new Social Work Case Manager Specialist positions. Kristie will add the topic to the Coalition work group to see if there are any pockets throughout the state.

## **Leadership Transition & System Coordination**

Members inquired about HHS Director, Larry Johnson's status since he was not confirmed. Janee stated that Director Johnson has shared that he plans on serving through the end of the administration and more details will come. She shared that it has been a confusing time and she hopes to find out more information on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Legislative Updates (SFY 2026 and SFY 2027)**

Janee discussed the Early Childhood and Family Services Bill (SF 2488). Mary Beth discussed SF 473, an Act relating to certain sincerely held religious or moral beliefs of certain entities for purposes of child foster care and adoption. Janee shared that HHS received some defining language that the matching process cannot be considered discrimination.