



FINAL

DHS Children, Adults and Families
Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Future Issues Work Group
December 16, 2009

Attending: Janet Arenz, Mike Balter, Iris Bell by phone, Lois Day, Erinn Kelley-Siel, Mickey Serice

Minutes recorded by Pam Pearson

MINUTES

ACTION: The 10/14/09 FIWG minutes were approved.

STANDING CWAC AGENDA ITEMS

- Balter: Envisions CWAC meetings running with four standing agenda items: review of calendar, presentation of data and briefings, cross-over reports from CWAC members serving on other committees and unfinished business.
- Bell: FIWG often hears things first and CWAC may not have all the background detail. It will be important to make sure the four issues on our work plan are always in front of the committee.
- Balter: Agreed. We will set the CWAC agenda to include the work plan, even if some parts will have no action. Because CWAC meets only six times per year, the issues in the work plan needs to always be presented on the forefront, until CWAC says they are no longer the important issues.

FIWG will need to keep in touch with Erinn about unfinished business to attend to, current business the committee is working on and new business coming down the road. He would like to have DHS decide on one or two things that are the most important products the agency wants from CWAC in the next 18 months.

- Day: The Office of Safety and Permanency for Children (OSPC) has six things they are working to achieve and she will see how CWAC can be used.
- Bell: Much of the work OSPC is doing aligns with our work plan, so asking them what they need from us is great.

CALENDAR

- Balter: Are there any events to add to the CWAC calendar?
- Serice: By the time CWAC meets in January, we may have some preliminary information on possible legislative concepts.

- Arenz: The Addictions and Mental Health Division is drafting some legislative concepts already. They are struggling with whether their policy option packages (POPs) should be to restore cuts or for new programs.
- Serice: That is a common question in DHS. We built a needs-based budget for 2009-11. A decision has not been made to update that budget or use a different strategy for 2011-13.
- Arenz: Could we add that to the January CWAC agenda?
- Balter: Before we do, we need an orientation to legislative concepts and POPs. Asked that Mickey send an email to CWAC explaining that there is an interim legislative session in February, that DHS is getting ready for the 2011 session at the same time and where CAF is at in the development of legislative concepts and POPs. He asked if Mickey would prepare a similar update before each CWAC meeting on where CAF is at, where the division is going, where CWAC can participate and where it is too late for CWAC input on concepts or POPs. It needs to clearly separate legislative policy development from budget development.
- Kelley-Siel: Is working on drafts of federal advocacy agendas. There may be a way to engage CWAC and others in advocating for additional federal revenue. Outside organizations may be better able to advocate than state agencies. Recently attended the APHSA Policy Summit. It appears TANF directors will be seeking a cost of living increase for TANF. There are some state child welfare administrators who want to seek additional federal funding. Oregon plans to approach its congressional delegation. There will be some big decisions at the national level that will affect our child welfare programs. Oregon is looking at possibly partnering with the State of Washington for a northwest strategy. At some point, we will tee this up for discussion with CWAC to get input on what members like, don't like and how to partner for advocacy.
- Balter: Some CWAC members are members of other advocacy organizations, such as Child Welfare League of America. It would be advantageous to have an agreement with Oregon's strategy, and even better, a northwest strategy.
- Arenz: Will be lobbying with the delegation in January. Asked how she might be helpful then.
- Kelley-Siel: Will send FIWG a draft of what will be coming out of the APHSA Policy Summit. The draft proposal includes giving the Florida Waiver Option to all states. However, some states are concerned that requires them to bet on some things out of their control. They want some shared risk between the states and feds. State investment in child welfare has been increasing and there needs

to be a better balancing between that and the federal investment. The draft proposal will change if the input from the state child welfare directors is considered. It would be good to have proactive conversations with talking points. The strongest voices are the National Governor's Association, National Conference of State Legislatures and state child welfare directors.

- Balter: We may want to form a smaller work group of CWAC members who are interested in moving the federal policy. Alignment of nonprofits with state child welfare policy would help the nonprofits advocate.
- Bell: We could craft the strategy and members could use those pieces that are most effective for them to carry forward.
- Kelley-Siel: CAF will lay out its strategy and CWAC can form a small work group if they so choose. She met with David Hansell, Administration for Children and Families, to pitch TANF as a children's program. Erinn would like to see incentives offered to states who reduce foster care placements similar to the incentives for food stamp participation. She will share the TANF agenda with FIWG.
- Arenz: Have there been any conversations about the assumptions and characteristics of children in TANF such as ethnicity, poverty etc?
- Kelley-Siel: No, but that would be interesting. That is similar to what the Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force is doing. An interesting question: If poverty is a variable that makes it more likely children will come into care, what would be the impact of investing more in programs such as Family Support and Connections?
- Arenz: AMH has a strengthening families program. They have had a big hit in their funding. Are there points of coordination in the cross over impacts?
- Kelley-Siel: That question may be embedded in the work of an existing work group within AMH and Janet may be interested in participating in that. There has been thought of forming a multi state agency work group on a statewide agenda around older youth in Oregon, but we have not kicked it off yet.
- Balter: This may be an emerging work topic. It needs to be positioned with a goal to bring as much new resource to Oregon as possible. Our respective agencies need to agree that a win for any of us is a win for all of us. Envisions a wide coalition pitching as many good ideas as possible to move Oregon's child welfare agenda under the common theme of reducing foster care in Oregon.
- Arenz: Planning would be needed on how to sustain what gets started with the one-time stimulus packages.

- Balter: Is there anything to add to the CWAC calendar? Asked that January 26, 2010 be added as election day for Measures 66 and 67.
- Kelley-Siel: Asked that the week of December 21, 2009, be added as when the DHS rebalance will be sent to LFO. And on January 14, 2010, the rebalance will be presented to legislative interim committees.

- ACTION:**
- **Mickey will send an email to CWAC before each CWAC meeting reporting on legislative activity. It will separate legislative policy development from budget development.**
 - **CAF to send FIWG a draft of what will be coming out of the APHSA Policy Summit.**
 - **CAF will lay out its federal policy strategy and send to CWAC. FIWG will develop a proposal for a CWAC work group of members interested in moving the federal policy agenda forward.**
 - **The following dates will be added to the CWAC calendar:**
 - **January 26, 2010: Election day for Measures 66 and 67.**
 - **December 21-24, 2009: DHS rebalance sent to LFO.**
 - **January 14, 2010: Rebalance presented to legislative interim committees.**

DATA REPORTS

- Balter: No reports are pending for distribution to CWAC. We did get a request from Janel Salazar to share information regarding OR-Kids. Asked if it is an informational report that could be sent in writing or if a presentation is needed at CWAC.
- Kelley-Siel: We are getting into a critical phase with OR-Kids. There may be some CWAC members with detailed questions, but there is also a conversation about to happen on how to message to the field how we will implement OR-Kids. There are some decisions needed in the next month regarding whether to go totally electronic with our child welfare files and processes. If we do, that will eliminate some process improvements we have scheduled. It would impact partners (judges, courts, attorneys, etc.). It may be better to place this on a CWAC agenda after January when we would be in a better place to report, including where we would be seeking CWAC support. There are no federal SACWIS requirements on obtaining advisory committee support. There is a high-level Powerpoint presentation and she will ask if she can share it with CWAC. The timelines should be added to the CWAC calendar. Even if we

don't go paperless, we are changing how we do our work. This is not a January conversation, but we can provide written material.

- Balter: Asked that a briefing be provided that includes the history of when CWAC was asked for input on the data sets being built into OR-Kids, that this is another update and awareness, but no action is needed from CWAC at this time.
- Arenz: Would CWAC want to make recommendations on the budget reductions and what path DHS should go down as we get towards the February legislative session? That would take the narrower OR-Kids discussion to the bigger policy implications.
- Kelley-Siel: Reminder to use the Child Safety Work Group's recommendations for future budget and policy discussions.
- Balter: Proposed that two communications to CWAC be made prior to CWAC meetings. The first would include briefing papers for members to read. Time will not be spent during the meeting on those topics. They should be posted on the CWAC webpage and the web links should be included in the cover email when they are sent. The second would be the CWAC agenda and materials important to the agenda. Members would be reminded to come prepared to discuss.

- ACTION:**
- **Erinn will seek permission to send high level OR-Kids Powerpoint to CWAC.**
 - **Pam Pearson will add OR-Kids timelines to the CWAC calendar.**
 - **Janel Salazar and Lois Day will prepare an OR-Kids briefing paper that includes the history of when CWAC was asked for input on the data sets being built into OR-Kids, that this is another update and awareness, but no action is needed from CWAC at this time.**
 - **Mike Balter and Pam Pearson will work out a process that sends two communications to CWAC prior to CWAC meetings.**
 1. **Briefing papers for members to read. Time will not be spent during the meeting on those topics. They will be posted on the CWAC webpage and the weblinks will be included when they are sent.**
 2. **CWAC agenda and materials important to the agenda. Members will be reminded to come prepared to discuss.**

CROSS-OVER REPORTS

- Balter: Several CWAC members serve on other committees including HB 2009 DHS/OHA Transition stakeholder group, Foster Care Safety Team and the Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force. A standing agenda item will be an opportunity for cross over reports if it is timely for a report.
- Kelley-Siel: It would be timely in January for a report from the Foster Care Safety Team. They have their draft recommendations ready to send to out for feedback. There is a piece that is specifically for CWAC.
- Bell: When it is sent to CWAC, align it to at least one of the four issues in our work plan.
- Balter: Whenever something is sent to CWAC, asked that DHS clearly explain if it is coming as information only, for comment (individually or from CWAC as a group), how it links to the items in our work plan, if it coming to CWAC for signoff from CWAC or as a distribution point to the group of people in the membership. Suggested a template cover page be developed.

- ACTION:**
- **Several CWAC members serve on other committees including HB 2009, Foster Care Safety Team and the Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force. A standing agenda item will be an opportunity for a cross over report. Erinn, Mickey and Lois will be asked in advance if it is timely for a report.**
 - **Pam Pearson will draft a template cover page to use when distributing information to CWAC that will outline the purpose of sending it to CWAC, how it links to the work plan, action requested, contact person, due date.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BRS Update

Use the template when the BRS report is distributed. Ask Donna Keddy to report on:

- How is the BRS plan going?
- What are the successes?
- What are the struggles?
- Where are you at now? Show how this has become part of the Children's Wraparound Initiative.

Workload Staffing Model

Not at a place where we would benefit from a discussion. DHS will not report to the legislature until 2011, unless requested.

Interim Legislative Session

Mickey will send a report in advance of the January CWAC meeting. See above discussion under "CALENDAR."

FIWG Membership and Meeting Location

At least two more members are needed on FIWG. One of the work plan goals is to widen the membership on CWAC. FIWG will submit a proposal to CWAC that FIWG serve as a nominating group for CWAC membership, looking at skill sets and a person's ability to represent his/her organization effectively.

The criteria for serving on FIWG are the ability to take on the additional workload and willingness to do the planning and preparation needed before the meetings. All CWAC members are welcome to attend any or part of the FIWG meetings, especially if there is a certain topic of particular interest to them.

A decision on meeting location for FIWG meetings will be delayed until the two new members are added. If the majority are from the Portland area, the FIWG meetings may be held in Portland on occasion.

Mike will prepare a description of FIWG that will be used to invite CWAC members to consider joining the work group. The invitation will explain that FIWG is down to three members and at least five are needed.

CWAC WORK PLAN

1. To advise the Department of Human Services (DHS) on development and administration of child welfare policies, programs and practices related to reducing over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.

Judge Waller and Kory Murphy will be asked to provide a report on the Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force as a cross over report in January.

2. To expand the representativeness in CWAC discussions.

FIWG will propose to CWAC that FIWG assume the role of a nominating committee for CWAC membership. No action will be taken regarding members whose terms have or will soon end until FIWG has a chance to do more work in reviewing the current membership. If a particular member has been challenged to attend, FIWG will make a recommendation to Erinn on whether or not a representative of that member's constituency is needed on CWAC. If so and the current member is not able to commit to active participation and attendance, FIWG will make a recommendation for a replacement.

3. To coordinate and leverage state and local efforts to improve policy, program, and practice.

No action at this time.

4. To advise DHS on the practice of the Oregon Safety Model (OSM).

FIWG will work on this in February. Angela Sherbo and Judge Waller will be invited to the FIWG as they were strong advocates for this item during the CWAC retreat in July. They will be asked to help shape the work plan for a possible work group and to help identify others to be part of the work group.

Meeting adjourned.