DRAFT

DHS Children, Adults and Families
Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Future Issues Work Group
February 17, 2010

Attending: Janet Arenz (by phone), Mike Balter, Iris Bell, Leslie Currin (by phone), Lois Day, Mickey Serice

Minutes recorded by Pam Pearson

AGENDA REVIEW

- Balter: Our tasks today include: recruit new FIWG members, find a new date for FIWG meetings as Janet and Lois have standing conflicts, set the CWAC agenda for March, broaden the CWAC membership, discuss what CWAC might do regarding a review of the Oregon Safety Model, including the possibility of bringing Gene Evans in to help CWAC in the conversation about resources. Asked how people thought the new CWAC agenda format worked.
- Bell and Serice: Both liked how the January CWAC meeting flowed and thought it covered the material well.
- Bell: Members seem to be reading those materials that are of particular interest to them.

ACTION: **CWAC agendas will continue in the new format until decided otherwise.**

MINUTES

The 12/16/09 FIWG minutes were approved.

CALENDAR

- Serice: The dates for development of legislative concepts may need to be revised and pushed out further. We have added two placeholder concepts; one for the equity task force and one for the TANF program.
- Balter: Mickey will be sending out a legislative update before the March CWAC meeting. There may be time for CWAC to comment on the proposed concepts.
- Bell: The calendar includes the Child Welfare Equity Task Force public forums. Need to add the times and locations of these forums so that CWAC members can attend if they so choose. Other public meetings such as foster care summits in the eight Casey pilot communities should be added to the calendar. CWAC members should be encouraged to attend these meetings in their local communities.

- Balter: These local meetings will be built into the calendar with an expectation that CWAC members will attend and report back on what is happening in their local communities. This will help reduce the disconnect and address Goal 3 in the CWAC work plan (To coordinate and leverage state and local efforts to improve policy, program, and practice).
- Serice: Most counties have a structure for an advisory committee, which began under the Juvenile Rights Project Agreement.
- Bell: That is another connection. CWAC members should know what is in their local communities.
- Balter: These local advisory committees are also natural recruitment pools for CWAC.
- Bell: Suggested sending letters to the local advisory committees inviting membership to CWAC.
- Balter: Members will be reminded to look at the calendar on a regular basis to alert themselves to what is on the horizon. We will add the Casey and CWETF public forums to the calendar and encourage CWAC members to attend the ones in their local communities to see the connection of what is happening in the local community and what is happening in CWAC. Asked Mickey to find out which counties have local advisory committees and how FIWG can communicate with them.

ACTION:
- **Mickey Serice and Pam Pearson will update the calendar with the information on public forums and summits. [Note: calendar updated through May 2010]**
- **CWAC members will be encouraged to attend the public forums, summits and local advisory committee meetings in their local communities and report back to CWAC.**
- **Mickey Serice and Pam Pearson will collect information on local advisory committees. [Done 3/3/2010]**
- **Mike Balter will send an email to the local committee chairs asking if the CWAC members may attend their meetings and mentioning that CWAC is looking for nominations for future CWAC members.**
- **The local advisory committees may be used as a recruitment pool for future CWAC members.**
- **FIWG meetings will be moved to the 2nd Wednesday of the months in which CWAC does not meet.**

DATA REPORTS

Teens Data Report

- Balter: Every six months the CWAC chair receives a data report that is used to determine if the Oregon Safety Model has had an impact on teens' access to DHS Child Welfare services. He received the most recent report this week.
- Day: That report demonstrated that the implementation of the OSM did not have an impact, adversely or positively. The most recent CIRT illustrated the misapplication of the use of the definition of vulnerability. We are researching to see if it was an isolated event or is systemic.
- Balter: He will report to CWAC on this data report. We may want to look at whether or not DHS is interacting with the correct number of teens. Table 1 shows the percent of victims is highest for ages 0-5 and lowest for age 13+.
- Day: When CAF had a level system in place, a portion of the teen population needing services went to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families – the non-abuse and the prevention categories.
- Balter: Has concerns about current efforts at the federal level that would put funding to address sex trafficking in public safety rather than child welfare. Where does this population fit in the child welfare system? There is some activity going on that is looking at the idea of holding teen prostitutes in a secure country location until they are willing to testify against the pimps – to victimize rather than criminalize these teens. It then becomes a child welfare issue instead of a public safety issue.
- Day: Parents can file a petition to the court for intervention for their child's safety if that child is out of parental control. She is not sure how DHS would respond to such a petition for teen prostitutes because we center on in-home abuse.
- Balter: He will discuss this more with Lois outside the FIWG meeting. His concern is for the 12-13 year old girls who are out of parental control and end up in sex trafficking.
- Day: Other questions are: What would the court do with those petitions filed by the parents? Would the child welfare community be creating service intervention for when parents file these petitions?
- Balter: Homeless and runaway services may be able to provide shelter resources. Earlier intervention at the front end could address the out of control behavior before it becomes sex trafficking. He will be pursuing this conversation with the homeless and runaway folks. Is concerned that if we

don't do something, it will be handled by someone else with inadequate funding and then they will look to DHS Child Welfare for help.

- Day: Our response would be that it is a law enforcement issue because it is abuse outside the home.
- Balter: It has been under the radar but Senator Wyden has some energy around it. Wants to avoid the same experience as what happened with the child abuse receiving center.

ACTION: **The teen data report will be sent to CWAC. Mike will report on it at the CWAC meeting that FIWG reviewed it and point out that a recent CIRT asks the question if there is a systemic misapplication of the definition of vulnerability. CWAC will track the data for another year. We may want to look at the question of whether DHS Child Welfare is serving the right percentage of teens.**

Status of Children

ACTION: **Lois Day will ask Gene Evans if a draft of the Status of Children will be ready for CWAC to get a first blush look**. [Note: 2/25/10 –link to final "Child Welfare Data Book (fka Status of Children) sent to CWAC http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/publications/children/index.shtml]

BRIEFINGS

- Legislative Update: Mickey's legislative update will include information on the 2010 special session and work on legislative concepts and policy option packages for the 2011 session.
- Federal policy discussion: No discussion today.
- Casey Initiative: Good timing for an update at the March CWAC meeting. Mickey will ask Catherine Stelzer for a written report and will point out the highlights at the meeting. Efforts will begin in the spring to look at kids on APPLA to see if we can move them to a higher level of permanency.

CROSS OVER REPORTS

- Foster Care Safety Team: CAF is looking at the FCST's 32 recommendations, what can be implemented and when. The report will be added to the agenda packets and CAF (Lois Day) will report on the planning to achieve them. The FCST is putting the final touches on their final report. Lois's report will focus

on the recommendations that involve CWAC. Gene Evans will be asked to help CWAC be prepared to respond to the publicity and resource challenges in implementing the recommendations.

- Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force: No report needed in March. It will be added to the May 12 agenda.
- HB 2009 Transition: Ruth Taylor and Erinn Kelley-Siel will be asked if it is timely for a report.
- Work Group of Three Branches of Government: Mickey will include their work in his legislative update. They met on March 9, 2010.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Workload Staffing: Not timely for a report.
- FWIG membership: At least two more members are needed and they need to have a good sense of the DHS system. Mike will call Pamela Butler, Helen Hoang and Christine Stetzer to see if they are interested.

CWAC MEMBERSHIP

Several members' terms have ended or will soon, making this a good time to look at the criteria for membership. The ORS is very broad in describing the membership criteria[1]. FIWG reviewed the current membership:

Dana Ainam: Represents the tribal community. Has not been able to attend CWAC meetings for quite some time. FIWG recognized the importance of having a member representing the tribes. Dana's term ended in January 2010. Erinn will be asked to approach Dana about her interest and ability to continue on CWAC before Mary McNevins and the ICWA Advisory Committee is approached for nominations. [Note: On 2/25/10, Erinn reached Dana, who does want to continue on CWAC and is committed to active involvement.]

Janet Arenz: FIWG recommends reappointment. Term ended January 2010. Janet is interested in continuing as a member.

Mike Balter: No action needed at this time. Terms ends November 2011.

[1] ORS 418.005(a): Advisory committee membership shall include representatives of other state agencies concerned with services, representatives of professional, civic or other public or private organizations, private citizens interested in service programs, and recipients of assistance or service or their representatives.

Iris Bell: FIWG recommends reappointment. Term ended January 2010. Iris is interested in continuing as a member.

Pamela Butler: No action needed at this time. Robin Christian changed her delegated appointment from Cathy Kaufman to Pamela Butler recently. Terms ends May 2011.

Leslie Currin: No action needed at this time. Term ends March 2011.

Don Darland: FIWG recommends reappointment. Term ended December 2009.

Rep. Sarah Gelser: Has not been able to attend for quite some time. Need to ask Erinn if there is another legislator who might be able to attend. Terms ends Mary 2010.

Helen Hoang: No action needed at this time. Delegated appointment of OYA director. Term ends January 2011.

Jean Lasater: Term ends July 2010. Mike will call Jean to see if she will be able to return to active membership and if not if she has a suggestion for another homeless/runaway representative. FIWG recommends this population be represented on CWAC. [Note: On 2/18/10, Jean sent an email to Pam Pearson that she would be attending the March CWAC meeting.]

Leola McKenzie: No action needed at this time. Term ends November 2011.

Christine McMahan: Has resigned. FIWG recommends the OJDDA be represented on CWAC. The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association is recruiting for a replacement.

Debbie Moberly: New appointment. No action needed at this time. Term ends March 2012.

Chief Jerry Moore: No action needed at this time. Term ends May 2011.

Pam Patton: Term ended January 2010. Mike will call her to see if she is interested in continuing and if not for a recommendation for another girls advocate. FIWG recommends an advocate for girls be on CWAC.

Angela Sherbo: Term ended January 2010. Mike will call her to see if she is interested in continuing and if not for a recommendation for another JRP representative. FIWG recommends JRP be represented on CWAC.

Christine Stetzer: No action needed at this time. Term ends July 2011.

Christine Stolebarger and Ruth Taylor: Terms end March 2010. Both come from Parents Anonymous. However Ruth comes as the association's representative and Christine brings a former parent client perspective. FIWG recommends both be reappointed.

Judge Nan Waller: Term ended November 2009. FIWG recommends reappointment.

Vacant: The 21st membership spot is vacant. FIWG recommends it be filled with a foster child or former foster child. Nominations could be sought from Pamela Butler and Kevin George.

ACTION: Mike Balter will call certain members to ask if they are interested in continuing their membership. Once that is completed, the FIWG recommendations will be forwarded to Erinn for her consideration.

CWAC WORK PLAN

Goal 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.

CWAC received a report from Kory Murphy in January. No report needed in March. The public forum dates will be added to the CWAC calendar and CWAC will be encouraged to attend.

Goal 2: To expand the representativeness in CWAC discussions.

See above work on CWAC membership.

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

See above discussion on collecting a list of the local advisory committees, encouraging CWAC to attend and using as a recruitment pool.

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

A longer conversation with Angela Sherbo and Judge Waller is needed. The Foster Care Safety Team recommendations will give grist for the mill. A CWAC subcommittee may be formed. This will be added to the April FIWG agenda.

Meeting adjourned.