

DATE: July 13, 2011

TO: CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: Mike Balter, CWAC Chair

RE: CWAC Safety in Foster Care Subcommittee

Recommendation:

The Future Issues Work Group recommends that CWAC approve the June 17, 2011 draft charter of the CWAC Safety in Foster Care Subcommittee

Thank you.

**CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**DRAFT CHARTER**  
**v.2 (JUNE 17, 2011)**

**CHARGE**

The **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will:

- A. Monitor and make recommendation to DHS regarding the study to transfer abuse investigations from DHS to another independent body.
- B. Create and implement a formal review process for founded abuse in foster care reports, and generate a report of findings & recommendations.
- C. Create and implement a process to periodically review a random but statistically relevant number of closed at screening files to provide outside oversight for the screening process.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The Chair of the **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will be a CWAC member, and at least two other members of the CWAC will be members of this Subcommittee. The three CWAC members who are on the Subcommittee will recruit other members based on the roles identified below, at the approval of the Chair.

| <b>Name/Roles</b>            | <b>Agency</b>                            | <b>CWAC Member</b> |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Pamela Butler                | Children First of Oregon                 | X                  |
| Leola McKenzie               | Oregon Judicial Department               | X                  |
| TBD                          | Foster Parent Association                |                    |
| TBD                          | City of Salem Police Department          |                    |
| Former Foster Child - TBD    | OFYC Youth Designee                      |                    |
| CASA Director - TBD          | Oregon CASA Director's Network Designee  |                    |
| Child's Attorney - TBD       | Youth, Rights & Justice                  |                    |
| Bio Parent                   | Parents Anonymous Designee               |                    |
| DHS - CPS Designee           | DHS to designate                         |                    |
| DHS – Foster Care Designee   | DHS to designate                         |                    |
| Legislative Appointees - TBD | Designees of Senate and House Leadership |                    |

## MEETING SCHEDULE/REQUIREMENTS

The **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will meet at times and locations determined by the chair and membership of the Subcommittee. It is anticipated that the Subcommittee will meet on a monthly basis, at a set day and time (for example – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday from 9:00am - 12:00 noon). Subcommittee members may need to complete work outside of subcommittee meetings as necessary, for example reading policies and reports to be prepared for meetings.

## SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

According to data provided by DHS there were 58 founded incidents of abuse in foster care in 2010. Regional Consultants already do a review of all founded foster care abuse reports in their region.

1. At each monthly meeting the **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will receive a high-level summary report from the DHS-CPS Designee on any founded incidents of abuse in foster care. The DHS-CPS Designee will have pertinent case materials with her to report to the subcommittee, and the subcommittee will be able to see documents, review, and ask questions for each report.
2. Quarterly, the **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will identify which case files of founded incidents of abuse in foster care they want to review in detail, including possible request for additional written or verbal information from local staff involved in the case.
3. Periodically, the Subcommittee will create a brief summary report of key findings and recommendations based on the cases reviewed.

According to data provided by DHS there were 1,480 incidents (allegations) of abuse in foster care that resulted in being “closed at screening” in 2010.

1. The **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will work with DHS – Foster Care Designee and DHS- CPS Designee to identify a statistically relevant sample of incidents (allegations) of abuse in foster care that resulted in being “closed at screening” within the last 6 months.
2. DHS staff will provide the Subcommittee with an analysis of the findings of “closed at screening” reports. The **CWAC SAFETY IN FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE** will ask questions and review in detail those cases in which the DHS staff finds that agency policy was not followed. The Subcommittee will discuss policy implementation concerns with DHS staff and make recommendations.
3. Subcommittee releases findings of closed at screening analysis.