



**FINAL**

DHS Children, Adults and Families  
Child Welfare Advisory Committee  
**Future Issues Work Group**  
February 23, 2011

Attending: Janet Arenz, Mike Balter, Pamela Butler, Lois Day, Leola McKenzie,  
Mickey Serice

Guest: Sam Jones, Oregon Foster Youth Connection

## **MINUTES**

The 12/8/10 FIWG minutes were approved.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Calendar

The Ways & Means tentative schedule will be added to the calendar.

### Dashboard

- Day: Will find out if the Casey Dashboard has been posted. It is a different dashboard for the Casey pilot counties around their equity work. A Casey update would be good for the March CWAC meeting and we will include the dashboard as part of that presentation.
- Balter: On the regular dashboard, what trends are most concerning during this time of operating at reduced FTE?
- Day: We are watching face-to-face contacts, timeliness of response, finalization of adoption and timeliness to permanency. We are also monitoring expenditures. Increases in foster care may be saying that workers are not having time to talk with the families to keep kids safe in their homes.
- Arenz: The Equity Task Force recommendations have been sent to task force members for review. When they are public, will anyone link the Casey sites, the Equity Task Force recommendations and the dashboards?
- Day: Yes, conversations on implementing the recommendations will occur.
- McKenzie: The Casey core team discusses at every meeting how to link their work with the Equity Task Force.
- Arenz: A future CWAC agenda item should be to have Kory Murphy talk about the recommendations, what they mean, how they link to current initiatives and priorities for the future.
- Day: Erinn Kelley-Siel will need to be present at CWAC for that discussion because she is the best person to deliver that picture.

- Balter: CWAC has been waiting for this conversation to occur. A conference call is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 25, regarding support for HB 2053. Where is the Equity Task Force report?
- Day: It is not yet final. It has only gone to the task force members. It must be presented to the legislature before it can be shared with the public.
- Serice: The plan is to present it to the legislature with a presentation on HB 2053 in early March, but that is not firm.
- Balter: We will schedule time on the March agenda for this conversation. During the Feb. 25 conference call, we can talk about how the legislation links to the task force report even if it is not ready for distribution.
- Day: Yes, task force members can speak to the work of the task force without speaking to the report itself.
- McKenzie: The task force report may be out before the March meeting. If not, the fuller conversation would occur at the May meeting.
- Day: We will give updates on the Casey roundtables and dashboard in March. She will get information to CWAC on the roundtables. If the work agreement for next year has been signed, she will share it with CWAC.
- Balter: In the Governor's Balanced Budget, equity work is one of only a few items where the Governor is adding resources so we should pay attention to it too.
- Day: Wants to talk to CWAC at some point about differential response, which will be a big change for us. At some point, she wants CWAC to participate in the planning and design. The roundtables occur further into a case than differential response, which occurs at the screening end to keep families intact and kids out of care. It is inline with our goals. About 22 states have implemented it, and about three have reversed from it.
- Balter: We will arrange the March meeting to include the Casey roundtables, differential response and the equity legislation along with what is happening in the legislative session and the Governor's themes.

## **CWAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA)**

- Hoang: She is now overseeing the CJA and CAPTA grants, following Jan Slick's retirement.
- Balter: Today we will be developing the plan for how CWAC will manage the CJA. CWAC and CAF have all agreed to lower expectations than what

the former CJA Task Force was able to accomplish while maintaining some of the themes and thrusts from the past.

- Day: The concept of a subcommittee is needed because CWAC assumed the role of the former task force contemplated in the Act. Unless all of CWAC wants to do that work, a subcommittee is needed. They would look at what was done in the past and the budget. They would then make a recommendation to CWAC on what to do. Have any CWAC members expressed an interest?
- Balter: Cross over members from the former task force include current member, Don Darland. Several former task force members have expressed interest in joining CWAC: Mike Maryanov, Carrie Rasmussen and Tina Morgan. FIWG also received a request from Ruth Taylor that Leah Hall, a former parent client be considered for CWAC membership.
- McKenzie: She received a phone call from Dave Udlock, who organizes the Shoulder to Shoulder Conference. He is asking if funds from CJA will be available as they have been in the past for their conference in September.
- Hoang: The current funding cycle ends 9/30/11. Funds for the conference have been allotted for the next phase of funding. We must spend the remaining budget for the current cycle by 9/30/11. Projects for this cycle have been completed. An annual report is due by the end of May 2011.
- Day: The FIWG could propose that some of the funds go to hire a person to write the annual report. Jan Slick has written it in the past and has said she would be willing to come back part time.
- McKenzie: Jan could also set up the budget structure to get the subcommittee started.
- Serice: From the feds perspective, CWAC is the administrative body and the subcommittee is a working group.

**ACTION: The FIWG approved CJA funds be used to hire Jan Slick to write the 2011 annual report and set up the budget to assist the subcommittee as it begins to take on this work.**

## **CWAC MEMBERSHP**

- Balter: Two CWAC members' terms ended in January 2010 (Ruth Taylor and Pam Patton). One of FIWG's roles is to serve as a nominating committee. He recommends Ruth be invited to continue to serve and offered

to call her to confirm her interest. Ruth is an active member, hard working and brings value to the committee. Pam Patton is also a valuable member, but the Coalition may want to consider using CWAC as a place to build leadership in the next generation of its members.

- Arenz: Janet will talk to Pam about the idea of CWAC as an opportunity for the Coalition. Pam may want to mentor someone for future membership.
- Balter: Pam and another person could both attend meetings with the understanding that only one hold official voting membership. Mentioned the need for a vice chair.

**ACTION:**

- **Mike Balter will contact Ruth Taylor to confirm her interest in CWAC.**
- **Janet Arenz will contact Pam Patton to confirm her interest in CWAC or whether the Coalition wants to consider someone else to represent them on CWAC.**
- **FIWG recommends that CAF make the following appointments to CWAC: Tina Morgan (Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers), Mike Maryanov (Crime Victims' Services Division), Carrie Rasmussen (Deputy District Attorney), and Leah Hall (former parent client). FIWG recommends that the first three be asked to serve on the CWAC Subcommittee on CJA.**
- **FIWG recommends that CAF consider for new appointment six other members whose terms end in 2011:**
  - **Oregon Youth Authority: Colette Peters – delegated to Rem Nivens**
  - **Oregon Department of Education: Susan Castillo – delegated to Leslie Currin**
  - **Children First for Oregon: Robin Christian – delegated to Pamela Butler**
  - **Chief Jerry Moore, Salem City Police Department**
  - **Leola McKenzie, Citizen Review Board**
  - **Mike Balter, Boys and Girls Aid Society.**
- **FIWG recommends CAF send a request to OHA Director Bruce Goldberg to delegate an appointment to meet the CJA requirements of health and mental health professionals. FIWG suggests that Bill Bouska be considered to fill the mental health professional role.**

## **BRIEFINGS**

### Federal Policy Discussion

- Day: Now that the federal budget is moving, we are watching that progress including any cuts in other areas that help keep kids out of care. We could give a general update on federal activities at the March meeting. Suggested CWAC members give updates from their areas.

### OR-Kids

- Day: We will be deciding next week if we are ready for the pilot. Fixes continue to be made. We are very close. We will set the go-live date when we have the pilot date set. A window between the pilot and go-live date will allow time for any necessary fixes.
- Balter: At a recent provider forum he heard about providers being required to input into OR-Kids.
- Day: Yes, that is a federal requirement. It will be added in phase two of implementation.
- Balter: We may want to talk about providers' concerns about time needed for the input.
- Day: She will have someone at CWAC who is knowledgeable about this. Providers may see a trade off in time spent currently to submit on paper and time spend on data input.

## **CROSS-OVER REPORTS**

### Child Welfare Racial Equity Task Force

- Balter: Reiterated that the draft report has been sent to the task force members and is not available to the public at this time. Under the heading of an update on the Governor's Balanced Budget and legislation, we will discuss the Casey Roundtables, HB 2053, and differential response. We will also have a conversation about the Dashboard and how the agency is monitoring impacts of reduced staffing levels.

### HB 2009 and DHS/OHA Transition

- Balter: Asked why Erinn's appointment to DHS Director was as an acting director.

- Day: All the acting directors will be invited to participate in the search for the final appointment. Erinn continues to serve as the CAF Assistant Director. As for the Wraparound, she suggested Bill Bouska give an update. There is legislation to move it to the Early Childhood Council.
- Balter: Would like the update to include information about folding BRS into Wraparound and Medicaid funding for Wraparound.

#### Juvenile Dependency Interbranch Work Group

- McKenzie: They are meeting on Feb. 24 on some legislative concerns and whether the Oregon Judicial Department can take a position on some bills of concern.
- Balter: While CWAC cannot take a committee position on bills, its members can advocate.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### Workload Staffing Model

- Serice: We will be providing information to Ways & Means in response to a 2009 bill. As soon as it is presented to the legislature, we will share it with CWAC.

### **DHS ACTING DIRECTOR AND CAF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Serice: As mentioned before, Erinn will share information on the Governor's themes, our budget, current state, workload, and future direction.

### **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.

See above discussions regarding the Equity Task Force and HB 2053.

- 2.** To expand the representativeness in CWAC discussions.

See above recommendations regarding expanding CWAC membership.

- McKenzie: The CJA requires a health professional in its membership. CWAC lacks that person, as did the former CJA task force.

- Arenz: Suggested asking Bruce Goldberg to suggest a health professional.
  - Jones: The president of the Oregon Foster Youth Connection has done some independent research on the use of psychotropic meds by foster youth.
  - Balter: We may want to invite him to give a presentation to CWAC.
- 3.** To coordinate and leverage state and local efforts to improve policy, program, and practice.
- 4.** To advise DHS on the practice of the Oregon Safety Model (OSM).

Discussion focused on the creation of a CWAC Subcommittee on the Recommendations of the Foster Care Safety Team

- Serice: As we think about creating subcommittees, we need to remind ourselves of the workload issue. He is not sure CAF has the resources to staff the two subcommittees CWAC is forming. We are not filling vacant positions.
- Balter: For CJA, will Helen be the staff support?
- Serice: Her role is the CIRT manager.
- Day: When Jan Slick retired, her position was eliminated and her duties were distributed.
- Serice: Is there a creative way to staff the subcommittees?
- Day: We may be able to bring back the clerical support person for CJA on a part time basis because the position would be grant funded.
- McKenzie: Supporting a subcommittee requires more demands on staff time than only minute-taking. This subcommittee on the FCST recommendations will require coordination, data pulls and gathering case files.
- Day: The same type of person could provide all that support with some oversight.
- Balter: Asked who in FIWG is interested in serving on the subcommittee for the FCST recommendations. Leola and Pamela are both interested. He suggested they meet with Lois to decide how to do the work, what work is to be done and what is most important.

- Butler: We will need to create a mission before inviting outside members to participate.

**ACTION:**

- **Leola McKenzie and Pamela Butler will meet with Lois Day to begin the preliminary planning for this subcommittee.**
- **CWAC members who served on the FCST will be asked to serve on the subcommittee organizing team to develop its charter and to recruit additional members.**
- **A status report will be presented to CWAC in May 2011.**

Meeting adjourned.