

**Division of Children and Family Services
Advisory Board Meeting
January 15, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
Meeting Minutes**

The Division of Children and Family Services Advisory Board Meeting were held on January 15, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Conference Room #5368 in Donaghey Plaza South.

The following members were in attendance:

Penny McGlawn, June Simpson, Debra Hurd, Dr. Jerry Jones, Jennifer Ferguson,
Joyce Williams Warren, Renia Robinette, Karen Worley, Connie Tanner,
Consevilla James

The following members of DCFS Executive Staff were in attendance:

Janie Huddleston, Cecile Blucker, John Zalenski; Gregory Crawford

Other individuals in attendance:

Lisa McGee

Handouts Distributed:

Agenda
Proposed Legislation for 2009 Impacting Child Welfare
Primary Strategy I: Develop and Implement a Sustainable Practice Model

Minutes:

Janie Huddleston opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of meeting attendees.

Discussion included:

Area Managers, field staff and central office are looking at the safety issues when doing investigations
Review of foster homes to start Jan. 26, 2009
Personnel issues at the local level
DCFS protocols regarding a child's death
Trust Accounts – Meeting with SS regarding spending money out of trust accounts.
Money is available in trust accounts. DCFS is working with local staff on items the money can be spent on. It was also noted the current process is cumbersome for staff and most providers will not accept a Purchase Order from the division. DCFS is exploring getting a credit card to be used for trust account purchases.

PIP Discussion:

Court areas in PIP

Medical training needs to be identified in PIP for staff and foster parents – this to include drug interactions, etc.

The method used in the development of the PIP

The need to share the current PIP with workgroups and make sure they understand where the workgroup information is located in the PIP and the reason for the rewording in some instances

Need for more information sharing among DCFS PIP staff and workgroup leaders, workgroup members and stakeholders

Organization change – transforming DCFS - building a new child welfare system and recruit staff and people

Have services to keep children in the home

What currently are their needs

How to spend dollars

Recruit more foster homes

Placing children when there's an available bed instead of looking at the home

Working with the Area Managers

Sharing information with the Area Managers

Positions being released in the field

Being realistic about where you're at

Not assume anything

Trying to take the mentor role

Progress with the Area Managers – Cecile is working with Area Managers closely. There needs to be a “balance”. Balance with developing and implementation.

Get the right training.

Next step with the Feds regarding PIP:

Narrative due 1-27-09. DCFS has established a good partnership with the Feds and they are interested in the implementation strategy of the PIP. We need to bring people in and get with Sub-groups regarding their input. This is a starting point to change the system that the Feds found refreshing.

Items that need to be identified in plan:

- DCFS workers in the field – have contact with CADC and local law enforcement.
- Teri Hays is working on reports on local law enforcement/CADC. Will take 6 – 8 weeks to finish.
- Money from Governor.
- See something enhances the professional attitude for workers.
- Some supervisors are not leaders.
- Going on site visits – visiting county offices and foster parents.
- Cecile and Milton – getting out visiting county offices, foster parents and caseworkers.
- Screening infants – before entering foster care. Get a copy of medical reports.
- Medicaid – DCFS workers will do a medical management with doctors/nurses.

- DCFS workers – learn how to read evaluations and what to look for regarding drugs being taken by infants, etc.
- Teachers do not know what the needs are regarding children in foster care. DCFS to partnership with the Department of Education to help teachers with children in foster care.

Lisa McGee talked about Legislative issues – Child Maltreat Act (Bill) and a new Child Maltreatment Act (Bill).

Next meeting

Set for April 16, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Conference Room #5368