

State Foster Care and Adoption Advisory Board

June 9, 2009

Meeting opened (by Eric, in absence of Lois) at 10:05a

Roll Call

Cheryl Williams – Area 6 (Sec)

Eric Pilson – Area 4 (VP)

Jim McKenna – Missouri Foster Care and Adoption

Pat Rogers – Area 4

Suzie Forbis – Area 2

Ron Forbis – Area 2

Lori Ross – Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association

Phyllis Hackman – Area 7

Barbara Bockage – Area 7 (had to leave early)

Lois McDonald – Area 5 (Pres)

Guests

Liz Beasley – Office of Child Advocate

Shandra Chapman – Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association (taking notes)

Forms and Area Reports

Reports Attached – Areas 6 & 7

- Area 7:
 - Gateway Foster and Adoptive Care Association of St. Louis – final details being worked out; meet & greet coming up; adopting Bylaws soon
 - City Ordinance that municipality can fine parents/hold them legally responsible for actions of children (keeps people from wanting to be Foster Parents)
 - Area Director asked that this issue be brought to Board, as it needs to be addressed at state level
 - Lois proposed that the Board take this issue on, as it is detrimental to developing/retaining quality placements

In-service on CD-114 Training Hours

- Cheryl provided the Board with Instructions for filling out CD-114 (have to attach sign-in sheet to form in order to get training credit hours)... turn form into home office
- Discussion of training hours awarded for Board meeting... still looking for some clarification
- Discussion of why CD is continually passing policies that make it more difficult for Foster Parents to get training hours...?

In-service on Monthly Expense Report

CD Staff Report (10:45a)

From Elizabeth Tattershall

- Board Mileage Forms – be sure to fill out everything that is highlighted, in full; Official Domicile is your County
- Handed out Brochure listing training opportunities for childcare providers that are also appropriate for Foster Parents to get in-service training (make sure to get preapproval, as some of the listed trainings do not count)
- Actual CD-114 form says you only have to get prior approval for training if you want childcare and/or mileage reimbursement... Board may want to address that
- Elizabeth asked Board its opinion on former Foster Parents who want to reopen their license ... should they have to retake STARS... at this point, it is not required that STARS be taken again (but there is nothing in official policy)
 - Board agreed that there is no need to retake the full STARS training
 - A refresher seems to make the most sense (to go over things that change regularly), including redoing a home study & providing policy review
 - Suggestion made that parents be able to take STARS after so many years of licensure (~5 yrs) as a refresher, and have it count for in-service training
 - Lori suggested that Board's Policy Committee provide suggested language for an official policy... quick feedback requested from Elizabeth, so that progress can be made... decided that July 15th is the "due date"
- Elizabeth asked Board its opinion on resource provider discipline form and safe sleep practices form being resigned upon re-licensure... Board agreed they should be resigned (will be entered into policy)
- Sunshine Law came up and was reviewed again; memo coming out about how Resource Provider files should look (ie what does not need to be kept)... list of items that should be in files is in the Child Welfare Manual
- Lois asked if all policies have come through the Board... Elizabeth answered that policy issues do go to the Board first; other items do not... it came to Board's attention that a memo that should have gone through the Board did not
 - Request made to make sure these memos are presented for Board comment before they are published
- New policies since last Board meeting, that relate to foster families: CD09-22, CD09-25, CD09-26, CD09-29, CD09-38, CD56 Form has been updated, Sanitation Form (CS101-J) has been updated (for homes with private water source), Respite Provider Checklist has been updated
- Jeff Adams, Training Unit Supervisor, is good contact for discussing issues with difficulty getting training credit

Old Business

Subcommittee Projects

Tabled

Medical Foster Care

Tabled

Medical Respite

Tabled

Career Respite Policy Status

- Draft of Career Respite memo and policy was presented by Elizabeth Tattershall; will be reviewed by Board... can now have 4 total kids in house (can have 2 medical kids, and still do Respite for up to 2 medical kids)

Hope Chest for Kids Status

- Discussion about Relationship of Associations and Organizations to the Board... adding reps from any group/organization that is formed could compromise the Board (groups could come with their own particular agenda)
- Three current Associations (those that are part of the Board) have been recognized by CD as “equally yoked” statewide support/service providing organizations... when these organizations were added to the Board, some concern was voiced that there may be a risk that groups would splinter off/focus on one topic or concern and bring their own particular agenda to the board... So it was decided that only state recognized associations would have reps on the Board
- May need to restrict groups from being able to have voting representation on the Board, in order to preserve the purpose/ability to influence
- Suzie noted that they work to serve people who can't access the three current state recognized organizations (Hope Chest is a 501c3)
- Discussion of removing all associations/organizations from Board (no voting rights)... associations would serve in an advisory capacity only
- Official decision tabled until actual change to Bylaws can be addressed

New Business

Reelection of members whose term is up

- Need to let Lois know by next meeting if current members are to remain their area's representative (which is to be settled within the region... chair of each regional board needs to send the names of the reps that will be on the Board for the next two years)

What problems do area Representatives address?

Handout attached

Board Website

Suzie has done lots of work on the site... she will work with Lois to get money (that is already allocated to supporting the Board) from CD, to pay for web hosting

Notes from Lois

Please submit agenda items prior to each meeting

Please submit area reports to Cheryl prior to each meeting

NOTE: Bylaw change recommendations must be submitted by March of year in which changes would be made, per agenda item to discuss in January, for yearly June meetings

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Next Meeting Date & Time

Sept 1, 2009

Suzie Forbis moved to adjourn. Ron Forbis 2nd. Adjourned at 2:50p.

Statewide Foster and Adoptive Care Advisory Board

Minutes – March 10, 2009

Meeting call to order 10:10a

I. Roll Call:

Lois McDonald - Board Chair, Area 5 (Kansa City)
Jim McKenna - MO FCAA
Suzie & Ron Forbis – Area 2 (Northeast Region & Hope Chest For Kids)
Janet Richardson – Area 5 (Kansas City)
Lori Ross - Midwest FCAA (KC)
Cheryl Williams – Area 6 (St. Louis City)
Eric Pilson - Vice Chair, Area 4 (Southwest Region)
Pat Rogers – Area 4 (Southwest Region)
Denise Kelly - Foster & Adoption Care Coalition (STL)
Kay Byington – Area 3 (Southeast Region)
Ron Byington – Area 6 (St. Louis City)
Phyllis Hackman – Area 7 (St. Louis County)
Barb Bocklage – Area 7 (St. Louis County)
Melinda Hardin – Area 1 (Northwest Region)
Zenita Smith – Area 3 (Southeast Region)

II. Guests:

Vicki Houska - FASG (Northeast)
Thomas Houska - FASG (Northeast)
Cindy Crowell
Kay Lehnig
Nicole Robinson
Diane Bueneman

Haley Richardson
Helen Tucker
Debbie Clark
Celesta Hartgraves - Acting Director Children’s Division (guest speaker)
Brian Kinkade – Deputy Director, Dept of Social Services (guest speaker)
Steve Morrow – Office of Child Advocate
Tom McDonald - District 49, State Representative

Jeff Grisamore - District 47, State Representative (guest speaker)
Shandra Chapman – Midwest FCAA (Taking Notes)

II. Regional and Association Reports – attached

St. Louis Area

- St. Louis City & County combined to have local advisory board
- Wash U has project at MO Alliance for Career children – will pay more than going rate (\$65/day)
- Local board has questions about direction of statewide advisory board

Southeast Region

- Discussed increasing membership
- Had issues with children being placed in homes that are not licensed for emergency care

III. Guests/Speakers

Brian Kinkade (Deputy Director of Social Services) – let group know his door is always open and he invites discussion of issues/ideas; has been working on budget issues – clothing & diaper increase has been dropped from proposed budget, along with money for CPS program, adoption resource centers and childcare; members of the House are working to get those items added back in.

- Q&A

Question: What legislators should we contact?

Answer: Most effective communication is a legislator hearing from his/her constituents – so contact any legislators you vote for, and make sure you are clear and focused on a message (later in the process, can contact conference committee members individually – can get this information from Lois) .

Question: What is timeframe for budget decisions?

Answer: Legislators are about halfway through crafting budget for year; governor has made budget suggestions; House & Senate have hearings about & study budget items; committee will then take one day to consider amendments to bill... final bill is then debated by full House (and full House has same opportunity to add amendments)... final version that is voted through is then “marked up” by Senate & voted on; once both House & Senate have final versions, they will go through and pick out individual differences, then have conference committees get together and negotiate differences of bill... then get one final version.

Lori Ross suggested that everyone should send a letter to the editor of their local paper. There’s a need to get the message into small areas (not just metro areas).

Celesta Hartgraves (acting Director of Children’s Division) suggested looking at the Health Services cuts as well (Mental Health and Medicaid cuts)

- Career Respite issues have been brought up to her staff; recent review came when the memo was written to pay for fingerprinting – some issues were highlighted during that process; question posed if its OK for Board to take on this issue, or at least have representation on the committee... Celesta is open to Board working on suggestions for new policy
Point made that it’s hard to offer extended support when kids leave the home (their spot can’t be “replaced”)
- No plans to meet accreditation for therapeutic foster homes, as that would rule out lots of parents from being Career Foster parents (requirements are too stringent)
Concern raised about allotted numbers of kids allowed... makes available services (parents with empty beds) unavailable to kids who need them
- Sunshine Law addressed by Ms. Hartgraves; safety of foster parent is always a priority to the Division... please let case worker know if you have safety concern/don’t want your information provided to bio parents; if a parent has ever had a foster parent license, their info will always be available to the public; HIPA, SS #, Account #'s, other children’s names is all info that is not available under the Sunshine Law... if you see your file and find info you don’t agree with, write up a “correction” or opposing view point and it will be added to the file... a review process has been set up to check files and make sure appropriate items are being put in files... Janet suggested that a signed form of informed consent be discussed and added to record at time of foster parent licensure... if someone feels that additional information should be redacted, how can we make that happen? Bulk of parents should have files sealed – only available if something serious happens... why can’t foster parents find out info about workers (their files are sealed)?
- Stated that group homes are still being licensed.

IV. Old Business

A. Sub-Committee Reports

1. Strategic Planning & Goals – no further work done; will proceed and email to Board by end of March.
 2. Bylaws – changes voted on at previous meeting were made; additional changes suggested and will be made; will proceed and email to Board by end of March.
 3. Respite Updates – have seen some progress; state paying for fingerprinting is helpful; Career Respite is still an issue; appears that Children’s Division is not licensing Career homes; policy for Career & Behavioral Respite needs to be changed (agreed upon per discussion).
- action suggestion (per Lori Ross): issue be discussed with CD – if no agreement to change the policy, the Board should issue an official statement... Eric Pilson suggested that Board write a policy and submit it...

- Respite children should not be included in allowed number of children (so those who have the total number of higher level children allowed, can still do Respite for higher level children)

B. *Adoption Subsidy Child Care*-tabled

C. *Placement and Classification*

Eric made form concerning issues with incorrect classification and placement of children and classification changes without notification (Cheryl will email the form to everyone attending today's meeting)... form should be sent to Eric for tracking of information... parents should request placement history when a child is brought to their home

D. *Fingerprinting, duplication of effort*-tabled

V. New Business

A. *Hope Chest For Kids*-vote for Board recognition as organization (the Forbis's will step down as Northeast Region reps, as they would become reps of the recognized organization)... question posed as to what qualifies an organization for recognition/rep on the Board (need for recognized standards)... 501c3, track record/years in service, financial viability, prior involvement on Board, national and political involvement... Lori Ross motioned that Exec Committee look at possible standards (table approval of this organization until next meeting) – info will be sent to Hope Chest For Kids before next meeting... Janet 2nd. All approve.

B. *Privacy*-addressed by Celesta (make suggestions for legislation within next 10 days)

D. *Training* – addressed by Celesta

Regions have option to accept only half of outside training (even if approved by state); legislation Lori is proposing stops regions from making those decisions

E. *Medical*-need for respite (what is liability for parents providing respite)... need for medical unit in CD... need for recruiting of medical respite... enact "acuity" level for medical kids? Zenita & Melinda volunteered to work on this issue

F. *Identification*-tabled

G. *Retreat*-committee work, explain Board member responsibilities, speakers

Note: Capitol Rotunda is reserved for April 15th – maybe a rally that has to do with the budget

VI. CD Staff Report (Elizabeth Tattershall)

Organizational Chart – passed out at meeting

Contracted as career with MO Alliance/Traditional license at CD... can home can take CD kids that are Career for respite (yes, but will get paid at CD rate, not MO Alliance rate... have to follow CD rules & regulations)

CD0905 - Revisions to older youth program; not changes to program – provides new tool to better equip

the kids; senior expenses reimbursement needs to be approved before purchase... questions to Sally Gains

CD0907 – Respite Care Policy – already under review for revision; respite units follow the child (Section 4, Chapter 17 in manual)

VII. Meeting Dates

Next Meeting June 9, 2009 10a-3p

September 1, 2009 (meeting originally schedule for Sept 8th, change moved by Jim, 2nd Kay – passed)

Adjourned 3:15p

Note: Annual Reports, from the Office of the Child Advocate, can be accessed at www.oca.mo.gov