



CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Child Welfare Advisory Council (CWAC) met on September 23, 2015, at the Drake Legal Clinic.

Summary of Systemic Factors Report. Kara Lynn Regula from the Department of Human Services (DHS) provided an overview of the results pending for Iowa's latest [Child and Family Services Review](#). This federal and State review examines seven main outcomes in the child welfare system, and requires development plans for areas of deficiency. The seven areas are:

- Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Service Array and Resource Development
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

A copy of the preliminary results is available from the LSA upon request. The full review is expected to be published on the DHS webpage in the near future.

Required Report. Division XX of [SF 505](#) (Health and Human Services Appropriations Act) requires the CWAC to study the procedures of the DHS for receiving complaints from families involved in guardianship, placement, and custody proceedings; and the clarity of court orders issued in placements pursuant to a [report](#) by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Administration for Children and Families. The Council determined members of the workgroup, and plans to meet four to five times in the future to accomplish this requirement. The plan is to begin by examining the procedures currently in place, identifying gaps, and developing short-term and long-term strategies to address the issue. The report, with recommendations, is due to the Governor and General Assembly by December 15, 2015.

Children's Justice Initiative Update. Gail Barber provided an update on recent activities of the [initiative](#). There are some smaller workgroups currently meeting. They are working with the Department of Public Safety on Human Trafficking training on the alternatives for using Child in Need of Assistance (CHINA) or proceedings in juvenile family court. There will be an upcoming webinar for judges and attorneys on the Human Trafficking Law soon.

DHS Budget Update. Wendy Rickman provided an update regarding the DHS budget at the close of FY 2015, with the Child and Family Services budget contributing to fill the Medicaid deficit and the FY 2017 request approved by the Human Services Council. The Department is monitoring the potential for a federal government shutdown. Also, child welfare procurements in FY 2018 may increase costs depending on how services are repackaged to better serve children and improve outcomes.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the CWAC will be December 11, 2015, at 1:00 pm.

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