



CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting. The Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) met on Friday, June 17, 2016, at the Drake Legal Clinic. The following are some of the agenda items discussed during the meeting.

DHS Update. Kara Regula from the Department of Human Services (DHS) presented an update on the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. The CFSR process is an assessment of the management and coordination of state Child and Family Services systems, including, but not limited to: DHS services, contracted providers, court systems, information system supports, and training systems. The federal target for all CFSR items is an assessment rating of 95% or better. States with lower scores are required to complete and implement a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). While Iowa does not meet the federal performance requirements, the state has seen improved performance on the national safety data indicators of recurrence of maltreatment and maltreatment in foster care. However, Iowa's low performance in the areas of placement stability and re-entry to foster care indicates that a high number of discharged children return to foster care within 12 months.

Members of the CWAC were concerned with DHS support regarding incarcerated parents and kinship care in which the guardian is not licensed or receiving subsidies from the state. Ms. Regula stated that the DHS has surveyed the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association and similar organizations for assistance with maintaining relationships and connections with parents and relatives while the child is placed outside of the home.

Children's Justice Update. Gail Barber, Vice-Chair of the CWAC, notified the committee of new federal funds received through the [Administration on Children, Youth and Families \(ACYF\) Regional Partnership Grant](#). The grant was awarded to 53 partnerships nationwide, including seven tribes, to improve the well-being, permanency, and safety outcomes of children who are in out-of-home placement as a result of a parent's or caregiver's methamphetamine or other substance abuse or who are at-risk of such placement. This grant was made possible by the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, signed into law in September 2011.

Title IV-E Funding Review. Wendy Rickman of DHS noted that the [regulatory review of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program will take place in August 2016](#). The federal review will determine whether children in foster care meet the federal eligibility requirements for foster care maintenance payments. During these reviews, the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families examines child and provider case records and payment documentation to validate the accuracy of a state's reimbursement claims of foster care payments. Each eligibility review details the strengths and weaknesses of a state's Title IV-E Foster Care Program and identifies technical assistance that may be needed for program improvement.

DHS Budget Recommendations. Ms. Rickman also discussed the upcoming child welfare public hearings, which are slated to begin in July 2016. The CWAC adopted a motion to recommend that there be no reduction to Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) providers in the DHS budget proposal, which is to be prepared and submitted by October 2016. New contracts for CWES providers will go into effect July 1, 2017.

The next CWAC meeting will be held on September 23, 2016, at 1 p.m. in the Drake Legal Clinic Library.

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