

# STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

September 7, 2013

## MINUTES

### **Roll Call.**

**Present:** Anderson, Yolanda, Baca, Marty, Bellecy, Florence, Bigos-Wheeler, Carol, Brannan, Bruce, Burnell, Susan, Daidone, Richard, Endres, Arthur, Foster, Natalie, Foti, Jo, Fry, John, Giaquinto, Guizzetti, Sandy, Laura, Hanson, Paul, Harrell, Nancy, Johnson, Ann, Koch, Connie, Lutt-Owens, Caroline, Lazere, Steve, Lundy, Thelma, Manring, Gene, Matthews, Tiffany, McQueary, William, Miller, Marilyn, Molever, Nancy, Smith, Linda, Tellez, Tom, Trask, Warren, Willis, Olinda.

**Excused:** Crawford, Barbara, Dansby, Karen, Gasaway, Julie, Goldberg, Carolyn, Ishmael, Susan, Kimball, Peggy, Kirschbaum, Ellen, Romanski, David, Sterling, JT, Terrill, Marc, VanAuker, Valerie.

**Staff Present:** Bednarek, Linda, Betancourt, Bianca, Carucci, Lora, Gilreath, Karen, Littlejohn, Brendalee, Lopex, Monica, Stanton, Ashley, Vance, Shasta.

**Connie Koch called meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.**

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion:** Approve minutes from March 2, 2013, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Smith, Linda, **Seconded by** Bellecy, Florence.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Introductions made around the room.

Housekeeping items discussed

### **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **A. Executive Committee:**

Connie Koch reported:

- Four attendance waivers were approved
- Reviewed State Board Goal sheet

#### **B. Advocacy Committee:**

Florence Bellecy reported:

- Mission statement development-The committee decided that they would post on the website who they are, what it is they do, and how they conduct themselves as a committee.

- Website- The committee is currently working on the development of a more comprehensive list of resources. The list has been compiled and will be available on the website soon.
- Findings-The committee has been reviewing Finding 10 for quite some time. Adjustments have been made to the elements, due to redundancies, in addition to streamlining the other Findings.
- Goal #2- Volunteer Utilization: The committee's goal is to promote more volunteer participation in state and local boards. Newsletter postings: Introduction to ALICE and new legislation updates. Enhance the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair positions.
- New case manager training- Steve provided a brief overview of the training. Warren Trask developed a template for new case managers that introduces them to FCRB and informs them of what FCRB does. It will go to the Advocacy Committee and staff for input.
- Goal #3- Ensure collaboration and support amongst State and Local Boards. Promote the utilization of the FCRB Linking State Board with Local Board Form. This form will be a good resource for local board members to communicate with state board members.

#### **C. Community Outreach Committee:**

Linda Smith presented:

- CEC's goal this year is to review the diversity plan, which is old and filled with old statistics. The diversity plan needs to be updated to ensure it reflects the programs needs and better services our population.
- Steve Lazere pointed out that we should ask every board member to reach out and recruit one new volunteer. Steve will work on getting current statistics regarding board diversity; Goal is to define diversity within the FCRB, which should include diversity in the community, multigenerational component, ethnicity, education, gender, race, faith, and career background.
- John Fry recommended having an intermediate step before volunteers go through the background/fingerprinting process and have a seasoned board member meet one on one with prospective volunteers.

#### **D. Continuing Education Committee:**

Paul Hanson presented:

- Alternate review process (2012 state goal) is completed. New paper review questions have been developed.
- New goals-
  - New volunteer application-it will better track the application process;
  - Improved feedback.
- Development of a volunteer self-assessment tool is completed and ready to roll out.

- Possibly use Survey Monkey for compiling survey statistics
- A new sample case plan has been created. A Yahoo user group (azfcrbvol) has been created to show videos and documentation. Please provide any feedback on the videos and forms on the Yahoo user group.

A subcommittee has been working on the application process. Recommendations from prospective members have been given to staff for review. The subcommittee has also looked at the training policy, attendance policy, interviews questions, and other areas relating to applicants. One of the goals is to make the interview questions more behaviorally based.

Karen provided an update regarding the application packet and process. Recommendations will be presented to Steve and the supervisors.

Discussion took place regarding the board self-assessment.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**V. NEW BUSINESS: None**

**VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Steve Lazere delivered the Program Manager Report:

Staffing update:

- FCRB has hire or is in process of hiring six newly created positions. Three came from funding from the legislature and the three others came from court funding. Phoenix received two PS III positions and one PS I position. Tucson received two PS III positions and one PS I position. Frances Gonzales, Administrative Assistant in Tucson, was promoted to the PS I position, so Tucson will be hiring for the vacant Administrative Assistant position.

Current numbers:

- As of August 2013, there were over 7000 active cases, involving over 12,500 kids. That is a 30% increase in kids and 26% increase in cases over the past two years.

CPS update:

- As of March 2013, there were 14,300 kids in care. At the DCSD division meeting last week they reported the number is now over 14,500 kids in care. The number of calls to the hotline has increased by 8% over the previous year. Arizona is just one of seven states that have seen an increase in the foster care population from 2009 – March 2013, an increase of about 40%. Arizona has seen the second highest percentage of increase.
- CPS has been making process improvements. For example, they hired a recruiter which has made a difference in the hiring of CPS staff in addition to streamlining the Child Risk and Safety Assessment document. Technological

improvements to court documents are also being made. CPS is working closely with ASU on training and learning opportunities with an emphasis on clinical supervision. Additional focus is being made on practice improvements and program developments with the goal of changing child welfare in Arizona. Child welfare is not just about CPS, but a whole community based effort to improve outcomes for kids and families.

General Updates:

- Last year, for the first time in many, many years, FCRB had some left over budget monies. With that, FCRB was able to buy some items for outreach and recruiting opportunities. Steve passed out new brochures, bookmarkers, and key chains for State Board members to see.
- Yuma, which has been served by Tucson since 2006, will move back to being served by Phoenix as of October 2013. This is due to the tremendous growth in cases, and with the increase in staffing; it is a good time to move it back to the Phoenix office. FCRB is asking for the support of the committee regarding this and future changes that are in the best interest of the program. In addition to the Yuma change, several program specialists have been moved to different boards.

**VII. DIVISION/AOC REPORT:**

Caroline Lautt-Owens provided the following updates:

- FY15 budget request- The Supreme Court's FY15 request includes the creation of two more Program Specialist III positions and a new Specialist I position to appropriately staff the increasing number of children under review.
- Child Representation Standards have been created and adopted into court rule. Discussions were held regarding the need for the same types of standards for Parent Representation. Parent Representation is an important component in helping parents reunifying with their children. Unlike child representation, there may not be a court rule established. At minimum, a guideline, or best practices, will be developed. To kick off that work, a forum will be held on September 26, which will include all stakeholders. All information gathered from the September 26 forum will be sent to a committee, chaired by Judge Oldham from Pinal County, to begin working on developing standards and guidelines for Parent Representation. An invitation to the forum was sent out to all state board members.
- Crossover Youth Georgetown project update. Work on the project continues and a pilot program has been started in Maricopa County, which is moving along faster than expected. A courtroom in Maricopa County has been dedicated to only handling the cases of youth in both delinquency and dependency. Judge Blakey is the judge overseeing these cases. A crossover practice model is currently being established. As the project moves forward, the goal is implement it statewide.

- Pima County is focusing on education and has collaborated with FosterEd. FosterEd is a program out of California that focuses on assigning educational champions to kids in foster care. The educational champions are provided training and support so they can support kids in foster care educationally. Ideally, education champions are people who will be with the kids until they are adults. FosterEd is very interested in rolling this program out statewide.
- Committee of Juvenile Courts (COJC)-Connie Koch is serving on the COJC committee as the FCRB representative.

#### **VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no public respondents.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm

#### **Motion:**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn, **Moved by** Smith, Linda, **Seconded by** Tellez, Tom.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Future meeting dates:**

- *Saturday, December 7, 2013 Executive Committee only (telephonically)*
- *Saturday, March 1, 2014 - State Board Meeting (in person)*
- *Saturday, June 7, 2014 Executive Committee only (telephonically)*
- *Saturday, September 6, 2014 - State Board Meeting (in person)*
- *Saturday, December 6, 2014 Executive Committee only (telephonically)*