



Community & Residential Services Authority

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Carolyn Broughton (non-voting)	Michele Carmichael	David Elder
Susan Fonfa	Seth Harkins	Julianna Harms
Merlin Lehman	Gary Seelbach	Randy Staton
Julie Stremlau		

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Lisa Betz	Kathy Briseno	Toni Hoy
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MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Bloom	William Delgado	Candice Jones
Dee Ann Ryan	Brittany Stern	Maureen Haugh-Stover

STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Nancy Aguirre	Lynn Lowder	Mindy Miller
Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel	Debbi Smith

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Tana Elder	Lillian Hahn	Michelle Schneiderheinze
Uli Senz		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and turned the gavel over to incoming Chairperson Randy Staton. Chairperson Staton summarized his career and thanked the Authority for the opportunity to serve as its Chairperson. Members, CRSA staff and guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 11, 2015 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the June 11, 2015 Authority meeting suggesting minor amendments.

MOTION: *Gary Seelbach moved and Michele Carmichael seconded that the minutes of the June 11, 2015 Authority meeting be approved with minor amendments. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **A list of CRSA FY 16 Officers and Executive Committee Members**
- **Copies of CRSA FY 16 Meeting schedules**, (regularly scheduled meeting and off-month, tentatively scheduled meetings)
- Copy of a **letter from Attorney Michelle Schneiderheinze** to the legal counsel of DCFS, HFS, DHS, DJJ, DPH and ISBE, threatening to petition the courts for relief if PA: 98-0808 (the Custody Relinquishment Prevention) is not implemented by August 5, 2015 (week ago). Those agencies were supposed to have implemented a multiple-agency protocol for processing CR risk cases by July 1, 2015.
- **Staff Activity Reports** for June and July 2015
- **Preliminary CRSA FY 15 Dispute Resolution Case Analysis.** Director Schornagel commented on dispute resolution trends during FY 15. Director Schornagel advised that the process remains a fluid, evolving process that helps parents obtain services for their children more quickly and which encourages member agencies to engage earlier and more collaboratively in resolving complex, multi-agency cases referred to the Authority. He observed that the Technical Assistance Conference (TAC) process instituted in recent years is helping Dispute Resolution move faster, with an on-average resolution time of five weeks following a Technical Assistance Conference during FY 15. Director Schornagel noted that in FY 15: 80% of the cases passing through the CRSA dispute resolution process involved children with co-morbid developmental disability and/or Autism diagnoses; that 75% of the dispute resolution cases involve Custody Relinquishment risk and that 40% of the cases involve adult service planning transitions.

Director Schornagel reported that at the end of June three cases were active within the dispute resolution process, all of which were carried over into FY 16. In July, one of those service disputes was resolved when the child/family were found eligible for an ICG. At the end of July two cases were active within the dispute resolution process, both of which were pending resolution at the Staff Review level and both had ongoing member agency consultation/involvement. He reported that one of those cases resolved in August as the client was transitioned to adult services at a state operated facility. He reported that there are currently two cases at the Staff Review level one of which involves a former CRSA residential dispute resolution case where the child was stepped down to a community-based placement and then became at risk for custody relinquishment through a psychiatric lock-out. He reported that the family and the CFT are again recommending residential treatment and that member agencies are actively consulting on that case while the child remains in a psychiatric hospital. Director Schornagel reported that four children/families on CRSA's caseload have been awarded ICGs in the last few months. He commented that CRSA staff report that none of the kids are yet in ICG placements and that facility match deliberations are slower than normal. He added that CRSA staff continue to encourage parents to be actively involved in facility selection, to select a facility

that is an appropriate fit for the child's needs and to resist the impulse to place at first facility that accepts the child or that is the closest to the family home.

In the ensuing discussion, Gary Seelbach noted that with regard to the June and July Activity Reports that requests for assistance are not dropping off. Director Schornagel noted that CRSA referral numbers have been stable or the past five years, with an average case open and active for three months or more. Director Schornagel advised that Custody Relinquishment cases are still coming to CRSA during FY 16 noting that there are no signs of Public Act 98-0808 (The Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act) being implemented. He provided a case example in which the courts are giving parents two weeks to arrange for funded residential treatment to forestall its remanding the child to DCFS guardianship. David Elder noted that while CRSA has historically become involved in some very difficult cases, that the cases received by the Authority today seem to be even more complex and difficult to resolve.

Gary Seelbach inquired about the extent to which CRSA staff are being asked to assist in special education planning and facilitation. Director Schornagel commented that requests for CRSA involvement in special education planning and implementation have been relatively stable over time and that CRSA staff continue to focus on special education rights education, linking parents to multiple agency resources and empowering parents to be effective advocates for their children in the IEP meetings. Debbi Smith from CRSA commented that parents typically ask for CRSA help after they have tried what they know and still need assistance.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Juliana Harms from DCFS confirmed that she is preparing for DCFS staff to do an in-service training at the next Authority meeting in response to the request for more information regarding DCFS and Voluntary Placement Agreements and related funding issues. She also commented that DCFS Director Shelton is concerned about the current budget impasse and its effect on Voluntary Placement funding, locating missing youth, etc. She stated that the current priorities lean toward individualized "Wraparound" service delivery; knowing what is happening with children in care; how the gaps can be filled and how the agency can work smarter, not harder.

Randy Staton from DHS/DORS announced that Kris Smith is the Director of DORS following her initial appointment as Acting Director.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Director Schornagel and Chairperson Staton discussed plans to form a CRSA Case Review Committee to look at reviewing dispute resolution cases and whether the CRSA bylaws need to be changed to resolve such cases. Members of this committee will include: Seth Harkins, Maureen Haugh-Stover, Bob Bloom, Linda Prewitt, Kathy Briseno, Gary Seelbach and Dee Ann Ryan.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of a Staff Evaluation Committee

Chairperson Staton announced the appointment of a Staff Evaluation Committee to complete a performance appraisal of Director Schornagel. Committee members include himself as Chairperson, Gary Seelbach, Kathy Briseno and Juliana Harms. Mindy Miller, CRSA Office Manager will provide staff support to the Committee.

B. CRSA FY 17 Proposed Spending Plan

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that CRSA FY 17 budget development sequence is beginning now to dovetail with ISBE's FY 17 budgeting process and explained the rationale for the proposed spending plan amount for \$592,300. He commented that this preliminary spending forecast is subject to change, noting that CRSA's FY 16 appropriation is still uncertain and that FY 17 forecasts may shift depending on the final FY 16 appropriation. He added that the Executive Committee recommended that the Authority also consider budget reduction scenarios when developing the FY 17 spending plan. Director Schornagel advised the board that one change in the FY 16 budget involves obtaining a satellite office in the Chicago area, with plans to move into the Phillip J. Rock Center being cancelled due to the facility's need to use the space for clients. The Director stated that he intends to speak to Juliana Harms and DCFS to determine if there is space available in the Glen Ellyn DCFS office which could be used by CRSA staff as a satellite office. Juliana agreed to discuss this possibility with her supervisors and get back to Director Schornagel.

C. Other

None

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Staton reported that most of the items discussed at the August Executive Committee meeting have already been covered in earlier agenda items with the exception of the following: Director Schornagel updated the Executive Committee on the status of HB: 4096 (the ICG Bill), which passed both houses and was sent to the Governor on July 15 for further action. He stated that the status of the bill has not changed since it went to Governor Rauner's Office and could be signed into law at any time until mid-September 2015. He added that Lisa Betz informed him that the ICG program will continue to be administered under the existing Administrative Rule until January 1, 2016 after it is transferred to HFS by this legislation.

Debbi Smith commented that some parents are reporting that their SASS providers may be discouraging them from applying for the ICG. Parents report that they are told their chances for getting the grant are very low and not to bother with applying and some others state that they were told that the ICG program is no longer available. She suggested that a departmental memorandum be written and distributed to SASS providers, describing the changes in Administration of the ICG and

reiterating the local provider's roles and responsibilities in the ICG application process. Director Schornagel advised that CRSA Staff continue to encourage families to apply for ICG's. Linda Prewitt advised that a significant barrier to obtaining an ICG has been appropriate documentation, particularly in the area of obtaining psychological evaluations.

VIII. OPEN DIALOUGE

Chairman Staton invited members to add comments in an open dialogue.

Seth Harkins suggested a motion that the Authority develop and send a communiqué to the Governor's Office and to legislators to raise awareness of the destructive impact that the current budget impasse between the Executive and Legislative branches is having on the children and adolescent services system. Gary Seelbach seconded that motion and discussion ensued. Members requested that a draft communiqué be written from the Director and circulated by e-mail to the entire Authority for consideration and unanimous approval prior to being sent. It was also suggested that CRSA's statutory Authority to write the communiqué be cited in the draft.

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Gary Seelbach seconded that that the Authority develop and send a communiqué to the Governor's Office and to legislators to raise awareness of the destructive impact that the current budget impasse between the Executive and Legislative branches is having on the children and adolescent system of care following consideration by the entire Authority and unanimous agreement on the final draft. The motion carried unanimously.*

Commenting on the increasing difficulty parents are having trying to procure appropriate clinical evaluations Seth Harkins suggested the Authority explore the creation of a publicly funded program which parents and member agencies could be drawn upon to get accurate and timely diagnostic information. Director Schornagel commented on the "paper chase" parents experience as they try to access resources for their children, as well as, the difficulty member agencies and public schools experience as they try to make service planning decisions based upon incomplete and often outdated clinical assessments. He added that from CRSA staff's vantage point there is a clear need for current and accurate diagnostic information as parents, agencies and public schools develop responsible service plans for children with complex clinical profiles. He commented that clinical assessments that CRSA staff observe are often needed include: highly specific psychological and psychiatric evaluations; neuropsychological and neuropsychiatric evaluations; sexual aggression assessments; chromosomal testing, etc., all of which are resource driven and difficult/expensive for parents to obtain. Director Schornagel commented that in the early 1990's CRSA had developed and administered a CRSA Multiple-Agency Funding Pool (MARP) which was used for a decade to support a multiple-agency plan of services for children on CRSA's caseload that needed non-traditional services and funding identified through the dispute resolution process. He commented that even though the MARP gradually became inactive through infrequent use, it had amply demonstrated that CRSA member agencies could pool and administer resources effectively to improve outcomes for children and families with multi-agency service needs. Director Schornagel commented that the Ad Hoc CRSA Multiple Agency Resource Pool Committee could be reactivated to explore the development of a publicly funded program to gather complete and accurate diagnostic information needed by parents and member agencies as they each seek to arrange for the right

services in the right settings for children and families served by the CRSA. Authority Members, David Elder, Seth Harkins, Toni Hoy and Gary Seelbach volunteered to participate on the MARP Committee and Gary Seelbach offered to Chair the Ad Hoc Committee. Linda Prewitt, Regional

Coordinator also volunteered to participate as a CRSA staff person. Director Schornagel agreed to gather background information on the CRSA MARP and to re-activate the Committee this fall. He reiterated the importance of accurate diagnosis as being critical to effective service planning and service provision. Debbi Smith commented that public schools could benefit from routine personality testing as part of the special education evaluation and planning process noting the development of Social/Emotional standards in schools.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michelle Schneiderheinze referenced her letter that was sent to six state agencies requesting that Public Act 98-0808 (the Custody Relinquishment Prevention ACT) be implemented, noting that only two of the six agencies responded to the letter. She also referenced the ongoing N.B. litigation and suggested that implementation planning for P.A. 98-0808 and N.B. may be linked. She explained the magistrate judge had ordered the parties into settlement negotiations but was not specific about how settlement negotiations should proceed. She commented that both the N.B. Settlement and implementation of P.A. 98-0808 appear to be stalled.

Ms. Schneiderheinze commented that custody relinquishment cases are now dominating her legal practice, with the in-flow of such cases being so consistent that all she is dealing with are children who are in the hospital or for whom dependency proceedings have been started. Michelle stated that the outcomes for these cases are "very local", varying from county-to-county and in some situations case-by-case.

Ms. Schneiderheinze commented that the Individual Care Grant (ICG) application process, typically taking 90 days or more to compete, is too complex and time consuming particularly in time-sensitive custody relinquishment risk situations. She also commented that one of the systemic impacts of a complex and time consuming ICG application process is that public school districts are increasingly pressured to provide residential treatment for mentally ill children to fill the vacuum created by the cumbersome ICG application process and micro-managed ICG administration. She confirmed that based upon her experience, some families are being told not to bother with the ICG application based upon rumors about the ICG program being phased out and no longer being a viable resource.

Ms. Schneiderheinze commented that some residential programs have at risk of closing their doors and that others are unable to develop additional Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA's) for their clients because of the long-standing overall fiscal environment in Illinois' budget. She noted that the current budget impasse only exacerbates those risks and is toxic for these agencies which are not willing to expand until they see some budget stability. She added that several Bloomington area residential facilities only remain open because of the recent decision for the state to pay for services which were agreed to in various Consent Decrees.

X. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Elder commented that while Chairperson Staton did not volunteer to Chair the CRSA Board, he is pleased that Mr. Staton accepted the Chairmanship and its related challenges and complimented Chairperson Staton on doing a great job with his first meeting. Board members agreed unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Gary Seelbach seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:14 a.m. The motion carried unanimously*