

Child Welfare Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lawrence Hall Youth Services

65 E. Wacker Place, Suite 1300

Chicago, IL 60601

1. Director's Report

DCFS Acting Director George H. Sheldon reported/addressed the following:

- Acting Director George Sheldon introduced himself and stated that his management philosophy as Director of the Florida DCFS and at DHHS included viewing private agencies as partners vs. vendors. "We are in this together and when we fail, the state agency fails". DCFS currently has low credibility with decision makers, lawmakers and media. The solution is to be totally transparent with everything we do. This may even include opening case records for inspection, even in fatality cases (with confidential data redacted that is not relevant.) Sheldon also believes in talking extensively to youth in care. We've designed our system to serve kids yet have done it without input from youth. DCFS also needs to function as a cohesive whole vs. individual segments within the agency. He is pleased that the Casey Family group is involved with DCFS in strategic planning and is looking at all aspects of DCFS from investigations to permanency. Sheldon will work with four consultants he has worked with in the past to help analyze management structures, system of care, information systems and federal claiming. They will also work with Chapin Hall on analytics. Director Sheldon shared that the Governor is committed to kids. We are in a deep deficit now so hard choices will need to be made. He is supportive of protecting services for young people in care but knows DCFS will need to prioritize as the hard budget choices will be made.

2. Casey Family Project report update

Cynthia Tate provided an overview of the scope of the Casey consultation. Seven consultants are working with DCFS on 3 critical focus areas with most capacity for change:

- **Residential--integrate all the activities regarding residential treatment
- **Child Safety Decision Making and practice model of supervision
- **Supporting development of data dashboards for reporting outcomes for individual kids

3. Committee Reports

Finance & Administration

- Finance & Administration provided an update on their work plans. Minutes from those committees are posted on the DCFS website

Intact/Front End

- Intact/Front End provided an update on their work plans. Minutes from those committees are posted on the DCFS website

Foster Care

- Foster Care provided an update on their work plans. Minutes from those committees are posted on the DCFS website

High-End; Residential/Transitional and Independent Living

- Residential/TLP/ILO provided an update on their work plans. Minutes from those committees are posted on the DCFS website

Well-Being

- Well-Being provided an update on their work plans. Minutes from those committees are posted on the DCFS website

System of Care

- System of Care provided an update on their work plans. Minutes from those committees are posted on the DCFS website