

# MINUTES

April 14, 2016

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## Attendance

Layla Suleiman, Aunt Martha's  
Mark Courtney, Chapin Hall  
Rob Hjertquist, Northwestern  
Steve Budde, JPA  
Kathy Grzelak, Kaleidoscope  
Neil Jordan, Northwestern  
Margaret Vimont, JCFS – Co-Chair  
Chair

Jen O'Brien, Chapin Hall  
Kimberly Mann, DCFS  
Michelle, ICOY  
Tiffany Gholson, DCFS/Education  
Mark Smith

Larry Small, DCFS, Clinical, Co-Chair

Minutes:

### I. ISCAW

Update on the meeting held since the last Wellbeing Committee was given, including a summary of the debate about how best to move forward both in logistics and timing. End takeaway for this committee is that these two efforts will move forward separately in the short run, with both committees keeping an eye on how the efforts will inform one another in important ways.

### II. CANS

As CANS measures are a critical part of our plan to measure well-being, the strengthening of this measure is of great interest. Given recurrent concerns about CANS practice and reliability from BH panel and this committee, Rob distributed several documents that show the Department's current efforts to improve CANS implementation and meaningful use in casework practice. This effort involved both POS and DCFS staff and is the result of a close analysis of the causes of the weakpoints in the current CANS use, a look at the barriers currently present and a careful design of interventions based on this understanding.

Jennifer briefed us on the efforts happening nationally to strengthen the CANS and ways to ensure that the Illinois' efforts are informed by the experience of other states. These efforts are aimed at aligning the CANS with the practice model and the Department's overall strategic direction, which include much larger goals than measuring well-being. They will also address the need our initiative has to use the measure for our Well-being Committee outcomes.

Ways to ensure that the work being done on the strengthening of the CANS is plugged into the right places in the overall system were also discussed.

### III. Domain measure review and discussion

The committee next turned its attention to the Well-Being domains to discuss the right combination of CANS and independent measures for each. The goal is to have measures in each domain that will use a different source than the caseworker or service provider so that any inherent bias is mitigated. The Matrix will be revised so that each domain

clearly shows the CANS measures and the independent measures for ease of review. We will also place the data sources that affect well-being but do not actually measure well-being at the top of the chart instead of the bottom to enhance the understanding of outside readers.

Domain: Cognitive Functioning

Age range: Infancy and Early Childhood

Discussion: Independent measures of the Ages and Stages (ADQ and ASQSE) are sufficient, but practice of having these repeated every 6 months would need to be universalized. At present, these measures are conducted once when a child enters care, unless the child is flagged as having a concern or deficiency in one or more areas of functioning.

Age range: ages 6- 18

Committee endorsed the used of GPA twice a year and standardized testing scores when administered as the independent measures in this domain.

Domain: Physical Health

Age range: Infancy and Early Childhood

Using the growth and development measures form the Health Passport is the best independent measures. Clarification needed about whether this information is entered into the health passport—**Larry will look into this.**

Age range: all ages

Domain measures will be clarified:

For the subpopulation of children who have a chronic health condition, the number of acute hospital visits for the condition will be used as a measure.

For all children, the number of medical hospital visits and any medical diagnoses recorded through Medicaid will be used as independent measure.

Updated matrix will be distributed to reflect changes as they evolve. Next meeting will start with the measures for the Emotional/Behavioral and Social Functioning domains.

Next meeting times, held at the Thompson Center:

May 17 9:00 to 11:00, room 275

June 23, 9:30 to 11:30