

## **FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 5, 2012

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kim Cable, Janet Chaney, Chris Crye, Gloria Doyle, James Falvey, Mary Fitzpatrick, Maureen Freedland, Sheila Garrity, Lee Johnson, Grace Jones, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Ann Kramer, Janet Kusch, Mary Meehan-Strub, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Mike Schnitzius, Sarah Spah, Jeffrey Trotnic, Gaye Tylka, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt and Mary Kay Wolf

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Grace Jones called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the February 6, 2012 meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 02/06/12 MEETING**

**MOTION** by Sheila Garrity/Janet Chaney to approve the February 6, 2012 minutes as presented; **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON, PAT RUDA**

Grace Jones asked if there was a motion to have Pat Ruda as the Vice Chairperson; Jodi Widuch/Ann Kramer made the motion to have Pat Ruda as Vice Chairperson, **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **AGENCY PRESENTATION: THE PARENTING PLACE: JODI WIDUCH**

Jodi Widuch reports that “The Parenting Place” changed its name about a year ago from “Family Resources” to “The Parenting Place”.

They support parents and families and serve approximately 2000 unduplicated individuals.

They provide a significant amount of services to the community.

They provide a lot of parent education classes, play groups, potty training classes, etc.

They provide developmentally appropriate information for children.

They are located in four locations:

- Green Bay Street in La Crosse
- Onalaska
- Sparta
- Tomah

They provide parent education by phone.

They have the “Young Star Program” which they started about a year ago in which there is a rating scale for Child Care Providers. Jodi Widuch provided a brochure for this program.

The Training “Stewards of Children” is a training for the prevention of child sexual abuse and is being held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Parenting Place in La Crosse. The fee for this training is \$25.00.

Jodi Widuch provided several brochures and handouts.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT: JASON WITT**

Jason Witt reports that the Coordination of Services Committee is looking at a shared youth services database which may involve the partnering of La Crosse County Single Point of Entry Initiative and the Great Rivers 2-1-1. There may also be a tie-in to the Rebuilding for Learning project.

They have scheduled a meeting the week after next to confer about how to meet these needs.

The Rebuilding for Learning group is involved in these meetings as well as they are looking at developing a website that would include, among other things, access to a youth services database. Students will likely be involved in the development of the website.

The Rebuilding for Learning team is also looking at the confidentiality rules, etc. regarding how to have better communication between agencies involved with children.

Jason Witt talked about the Economic Support Regionalization System. Jason reports that due to problems with the State's Centralized Document Processing Center (CDPU), it is better if consumers file their applications on-line.

Chris Crye reports that this has been an opportunity for churches to help individuals within their churches apply for services which help serve their patrons. Chris reports that he has been promoting this in churches to help their patrons get access to services if needed. Chris reports that they've had to develop a level of commitment in doing this but may not be able to advertise that they are doing this as they could potentially become overwhelmed and not be able to help everyone.

James Falvey asked if there is training required for this. Jason Witt responded that there is not training required and filling out the online application is pretty straight forward; however, Lorie Graff's team in Economic Support is available for training and is planning on doing outreach to assist agencies who want to assist individuals in applying for benefits. It was noted that an identified barrier to applying on-line would be computer literacy.

Ann Kramer reports that going back to the Strategic Plan "Is there a place to help/support clients?" this would be fulfilling this goal.

## **CULTURAL COMPETENCY COMMITTEE REPORT: CHRIS CRYE**

Chris Crye reports that they have been talking/meeting and are working on a process that they would give to agencies. They are developing a tool on "how to build relationships with culturally diverse people/groups". This would just be basic principles. If anyone is interested in being on the Cultural Competency Committee please contact Chris Crye at (608) 782-4494 or email him at [chris.crye@citychurchlax.com](mailto:chris.crye@citychurchlax.com).

## **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES:**

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Jill Billings**

Jill Billings was not present at today's meeting.

- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**

Jason Witt reports that the Income Maintenance Consortium has run into some difficulties in that there is a key problem. Paper applications for services have to go to the State Central Document Processing Unit (CDPU) before processing locally. The CDPU was unprepared for the volume of paperwork received at the project's start on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and fell behind. As the CDPU caught up on document scanning, it became apparent that there was a major quality problem with the CDPU coding documents incorrectly, losing documents or sending them to the wrong place. This impacts timeliness of clients being able to access benefits. To date the State is not able to get on top of this issue.

We are working with DHS to try to remedy this problem. Some counties are choosing to bi-pass the Central Document Processing Unit; however, we do not have the staff to do this. In order for us to function effectively as a consortium this and other problems related to State Information Technology needs to be resolved.

We have a unique opportunity this Friday as the Department of Health Services (DHS) Deputy Secretary Kitty Rhoades will be in La Crosse and we plan on raising this issue.

The State error rate has been estimated at 30-50%.

Applications submitted via the State's website <https://access.wisconsin.gov/> are not impacted by the CDPU.

Grace Jones asked if a letter from the Family Policy Board would help and Jason responded that we are currently working with the State and through the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA). Currently the attempt is to address this with the Department but if this reaches the Legislative level a letter may be helpful.

This problem affects Food Share, MA, Disability Benefits, Child Care Funding, Family Care, etc.

Grace Jones stated that she would do a memo to the United Way to inform agencies of this issue.

Jason Witt and Grace Jones then asked the Family Policy Board members for their thoughts regarding the report sent out to everyone regarding the Medicaid and Badger Care Budget Reduction.

Grace Jones reports that this has been a topic of discussion with the Family Policy Board Executive Committee.

In meeting with the hospitals, the hospitals expressed some concerns about the report.

Mike Schnitzius made a motion to move forward with releasing this report and Janet Kusch seconded the motion. Maureen Freedland then asked "to whom do we wish to release this report to?"

Maureen Freedland then wanted to amend the motion to say that the Family Policy Board supports further consideration of the information within the report and is very concerned with the issues raised by the report and that the Family Policy Board should move forward with engaging the hospitals and then make a decision on how to proceed. Chris Crye seconded this amended motion.

Mike Schnitzius and Janet Chaney both expressed agreement to the amended motion and stated that the Family Policy Board expresses tremendous concerns and urges the Executive Board consider this and work with the hospitals. It was decided that this topic would need to be discussed further at our next meeting due to the time. This will be on the May agenda and we will need to come to a decision at that time.

- **Family and Children's Section Update: Nancy Pohlman**

There were no updates today due to this meeting running late.

**AGENCY UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS: ALL**

Grace Jones provided a handout done by CouleeCap and stated "look at the number of people at the poverty level".

**ADJOURN:** Today's meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. by Grace Jones

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, April 2, 2012

**Approved:** April 2, 2012, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder