

Washington County Citizens Review Panel

“Citizens partnering with Child Protective Services to keep children safe.”

August 11, 2016

- **Attendance:**

- Members present: LaJuan McIntyre, Julia Welter, Nancy Zupfer, Mel Laughton, Bonnie Treacy, Deb Eckberg, Jan Hayne, Teri Bottum, Ralph Pennie, Dawn Hyland, Jennifer Dailey, John Kiedrowski
- Nissa Knutson, Sarah Amundson County, Mary Doyle (minutes) State

- **Approval of July minutes**

July minutes were approved.

- **Presentation by Jon Pederson, DHS**

- Jon presented on the updates to the state child protection dashboard. It has been put on a new platform (Tableau) which enables it to provide information that was not available before. It reports on child protection performance data by quarter for each county and tribe and the state as a whole.
- It does not report in real time – there is a lag while the database is updated.
- It increases agency specific details.
- It is a work in progress – they continue to develop it.
- There are four tabs, state, agency i.e. county or tribe, comparison tab and state vs agency.
- Shows how agencies compare regarding various data points.
- It will be used to leverage data and will be shared among counties.
- It will include separate state and federal performance measured – they are mixed now.
- You can lump counties together regarding discrete data. For example, you can pull out the child poverty rate for all counties or counties in one region.
- It also shows trends.
- This version of the dashboard is more user friendly.

- **Old Business**

- Julia brought the shelves for the Community Services waiting areas. Books for under 10 year olds and coloring books are needed for the waiting area.
- A member mentioned that the truancy workers had requested about 10 alarm clocks to distribute to families.
- The duffle bags have been used a lot and are appreciated. They don't need more bags at this time.
- Other groups are picking up the concept of the bags. Two girls applied for a grant of \$1,000 to work on bags for children in foster care.
- The bags in Cottage Grove are low on tooth paste. Staff will check with other locations and let members know if there are needs. Dawn has toothbrush, paste and floss in packages. She will get them to Nissa. Mel will bring some to Nissa too.

- Becky Barnhardt, a supervisor for Licensing, will come to the Sept. meeting with ideas for how the panel can help with foster parent recruitment. They will also develop a foster parent recruitment brochure.
- Julia shadowed a worker in the process of having a final meeting with a family. The family had made lots of progress and it was amazing to see the positive relationship they had with the worker. She was happy to see more of the work the county is doing.
- Deb also shadowed a worker. This person does ongoing child protection work. It was eye opening to see the good relationships she had too. She learned a lot about the process and how fast paced and intense the work is.

- **New Business**

- The panel will do planning in the September meeting. Please start to think about possible projects. Foster care recruitment might be included in several of the media /publications in the county. There was a breakout on CRP's using media in the national conference. Mary will send it out to members.

Presentation by Bikers against Child Abuse

Introduction

- Three presenters from the Great River WI chapter presented – Lionheart, Spunky and Cruiser (Mel).
- They discussed their mission statement and passed around flyers.
- There is also a BACA website.
- The idea started in Provo, Utah in 1995.
- They have members from all professions – many members are grown BACA children.
- It is a non-profit, 501c3 – they raise funds with an annual chili feed.
- 200 chapters, all 50 states, 16 countries.
- A legal guardian or parent needs to call to access services.
- They can't help all who need or request service.

Process

- When a call comes in it goes to the chapter board; some details are provided, otherwise all details are confidential.
- They do an intake in the family home and make sure the charges are legitimate.
- They may get charges from law enforcement.
- Level one – the whole group rides to the house and take the child and sibs into the family.
- 15 to 50 bikes pull up at the house – each child gets a small chapter vest and teddy bear which is filled with hugs by the bikers – if the hugs run out they can ask for more hugs.
- There are 2 points of contact – the child and/or the liaison can call for help/support.
- There is a lot of training for the bikers.
- Level two – the chapter will set up a perimeter around the house until things are settled and the child feels safe.
- Level three – They distribute flyers about the perpetrator.
- Level four- knock on the door.
- They work closely with the police.

- They don't give promises to the children that they aren't sure they can keep.
- They will escort a child to court.
- If a child testifies they have support.
- They want to break the chains of abuse – they don't want the abused to become an abuser.
- All members have background checks.

Panel member asked questions and discussed the presentation. They thanked Lionheart and spunky for the great presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35

Next meeting is September 20, 2016