

October 21, 2014 CRP

Present: Guy Sederski, Chairperson; Sarah Amundson, Nissa Deb Eckberg, Marty Gerkey, LaJuan McIntyer, Mary Doyle of DHS, Nancy Zupfer and Maggie Hart

Meeting was about 15 minutes late starting due to meeting room door being locked.

Motion made by Marty to approve September meeting minutes which was 2nd by LaJuan.

Update from Social Services by Sarah:

This Thursday there will be a meet and greet with the Judges. Certain Child Protection staff will be there (Maggie Hansen and Jerry Lukkonen who attended last month's meeting and spoke about Trauma Informed Services Training). We talked about the positives of last month's meeting guest speaker, Carol Segel who is a U of M professor.

The agency is preparing for Northstar which is a statewide incentive for child permanency program. There will be an assessment tool that will be implemented in regards to this and staff will need to be trained on this tool. This tool will be completed by the social worker with information from the other parties. This will begin in January.

Recruitment of foster care homes is a huge need for the county.

Kinship worker request is moving forward.

FGDM (Family Group Decision Making) takes place when appropriate and this is done by a contracted service provider, Community and Family Services Agency.

Update from DHS:

An all CRP meeting will take place on Oct 30 3:00pm at the Cottage Grove Service Center. Participants to be there are from Children's Justice Act Task Force, Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency, Child Mortality Review Panel and all CRP teams. Carol Wilcox will preside at this gathering.

Nov 17 there will be a Division Staff meeting at DHS and this will be an opportunity to encourage communication with CRP teams. Guy or Marty will be attending this event on our behalf.

Guy spoke at the first Child Protection Task Force Meeting. They invited all CRP chairs to speak for 5 minutes at the first meeting. This task force originated due to the media coverage around the child death in Polk County. These are open meetings and at the first meeting OLA (Office of the Legislative Auditor) presented their evaluation report on Child Protection Screening. At this meeting there was discussion regarding staffing county wide in the Child Protection system. It was also noted that there continues to be issues with cultural disparity. Mary reminded us that \$36 million was cut from the Child Welfare budget. Guy reported that important points made to the Task Force were that 1) children

don't speak legalese and 2) babies can't wait.

There was discussion about how difficult it is to protect the children. The system is traumatized by budget cuts, caseload sizes and pressures of the job.

Mary reminded the panel that annual report is due by the end of the year.

Minutes submitted by Maggie Hart