**Peoria County**

**Court Improvement and**

**Permanency Enhancement Project**

**April 22, 2010**

In attendance: Cynthia Richter, Michelle Spanbauer, Bill Karr, Martha Ross, Trish Redman, Mary Bullock, Jami Webster-Hall, Cathy Smith, Jeff Heckman, Jesse Esterling, and Gretchen Taylor

The group discussed the issue of payment for domestic battery perpetrators group. Peoria County Court has been ordering the Department/POS agency to pay for these services recently. The mindset of the provider of the service is the perpetrator needs to pay some of the amount for personal accountability of actions. However, due to rising costs of the group and decreased public funding, many of our parents are finding it cost prohibitive. Judge McCoy had requested of the liaisons to determine what other court jurisdictions were doing in regard to the situation. It was reported at the meeting today, this does not appear to be an issue in any other jurisdiction within the Peoria Subregion (which runs from the Quad Cities south east to Peoria County).

Mary Bullock, ARA, made it very clear the Clinical Division of DCFS states that if families cannot pay for this service, the agency should to ensure the safety of families and children. There is currently an agreement between Department of Human Services and DCFS regarding Partner Abuse Intervention Programs. There are a certain number of DHS/DCFS approved programs around the state. The Center for Prevention of Abuse holds the contract in the Peoria area. Mary Bullock stated if the local judges/attorneys would like a presentation from the DHS/DCFS liaison regarding the Partner Abuse Intervention Program that could be arranged.

The question arose could certified trainers/programs from other agencies be utilized to provide services for our families. Mary stated she would pose the question to the Clinical Division regarding acceptability of other programs. In regard to the Juvenile Court aspect, Jami Webster-Hall stated criminal courts in Peoria/Tazewell County would typically only accept the Center for Prevention of Abuse program. The group determined we needed input from the local juvenile courts regarding what they would accept. The feeling was as long as the therapist/group leader is certified to perform the service, it should be acceptable.

Cynthia Richter, DCFS Quality Assurance Division, presented the attached data. “Peoria County Profile-February 2010”. This is a snapshot of the youth of which the Department has a legal relationship. One issue did arise from the data; appears there are some youth with missing permanency goals. (Goals are not data entered into the DCFS system). Taylor will forward this information to the Agency Performance Team to address with the private agencies.

**PEORIA COUNTY PROFILE – FEBRUARY 2010**

**Total number of children with Legal Relationship = 895**

**CHILDREN BY AGENCY**

Alliance(Mentor) = 45 (5%)

Camelot = 23 (3%)

Catholic Charities = 206 (23%)

Childrens Home = 101 (11%)

Counseling and Family = 169 (19%)

DCFS = 83 (9%)

Lutheran Social Serv = 254 (28%)

Other Agencies 10 = 14 (2%)

**CHILDREN BY GOAL**

01 - Remain at Home = 10 (1%)

21 & 22 - Return Home = 287 (32%)

23 - Return Home Pending = 108 (12%)

#24 - Substitute Care = 106 (12%)

#25 - Adoption = 152 (17%)

#26 - Guardianship = 39 (4%)

#27 - Independence = 101 (11%)

#28 - Out of Home Care = 10 (1%)

Missing Goal = 82 (9%) *18 were new cases within the same month*

**DAYS IN CARE**

Return Home Goal (21 22)

Ave days in care = 685 (1.9 years)

Max = 2585 (7 years)

Min = 133

Return Home Goal (23)

Ave days in care = 806 (2.2 years)

Max = 2361 (6.5 years)

Min = 245

Substitute Care Pending (24)

Ave days in Care =1181 (3.2 years)

Max = 2785 (7.6 years)

Min = 265

Adoption (25)

Ave days in Care =1691 (4.6 years)

Max = 4706 (12.8 years)

Min = 265

**CHILDREN BY RACE**

Black Not Hispanic = 539 (60%)

White = 310 (35%)

Hispanic = 16 (2%)

Asian = 4 (<1%)

Unknown = 26 (3%)

A discussion was held regarding the race/ethnicity data field and how race is identified. Cynthia Richter stated a recent report generated by the Program Evaluation Committee reflected most investigators did not ask a person their race/ethnicity but rather data entered it from observation. DCFS does not currently have a field which allows a person of mixed race descent to be identified. Workers must enter only one race. Also many times workers will not go back and change data which was originally listed in the hotline report, which may not be accurate. The Central Region is in the process of “cleaning up” the missing race data in their records. It should be noted, the Central Region is the only one currently addressing this issue.

Cynthia stated she will provide the group with fiscal year comparisons. She will format it in a one page document if possible to make it easier to read. She is also still attempting to get data time of youth in placement and number of workers they have had. Group has discussed in the past having a desire to look at worker turnover and child permanency.

DCFS gave updates on the following:

1. Parenting with Parents Navigating the System. Next meeting April 27th
2. Summer Resource Fair is scheduled for May 27 at Lincoln Middle School from 4pm to 6pm. Flyers will be distributed.
3. De-Escalation training for caregivers and birth families scheduled for Tuesday June 8th from 6pm to 9pm. Location to be determined and flyer to be distributed.
4. New Permanency Goal “Continuing Foster Care” while in the statute, has not been incorporated into DCFS policy to date. It will be a goal that will more than likely require a legal screening prior to a worker recommending it to the court. Ms. Webster-Hall will keep the group updated on this.

CASA updates:

1. Pam was not available for today’s meeting. However, Taylor reported Pam had attended the National CASA Conference and had some new information she would be sharing with the group.

Community Updates

1. Lifeline Advocacy Center will be hosting the Second Annual Empowerment Seminar on June 18th. One of the topics covered will be record expungement. Ms. Ross will forward a brochure when available and Taylor will distribute to the group.

**Next Meeting Tuesday August 31, 2010 11:45**