

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2017**

PRESENT: Sara Barron, Judge Kathryn Foster, Lindsay Just, Sarah Matson, Jesus Mireles, Dianna Susitti, Sharon Thiede, Glynis Underwood, Karen Villarreal, Mary Wittwer

STAFF PRESENT: Esther Jensen, Vickie Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17, 2016 MEETING:

A motion was made by Sharon Thiede, seconded by Karen Villarreal to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting.

BOARD LIAISON:

Tabled until the next meeting. Jesus Mireles will follow up with the director for an available appointee.

COLLABORATIVE CRISIS SERVICES:

There are no updates at this time.

SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Sara Barron gave an update on the SSAC meeting. Brad Holman, Coordination Specialist of the Southeast Regional Center presented on Health Check "Other Services" which is an expanded Medicaid service for children. When certain services are not covered through Medicaid the families can request Health Check Other Services. A prior authorization from Medicaid and the service meeting a specific criteria that is "medically necessary" will assist in additional coverage. There was a large number of attendance by parents at the SSAC meeting which allows for more feedback by parents concerning issues they have.

JUDICIAL UPDATES:

Judge Kathryn Foster described the Court's judiciary assignments. There are 12 Circuit Court Judges in Waukesha County. Recently the State completed a "Weighted Caseload Study" which looks at case assignments, changing duties, etc. It was determined that Waukesha County has the appropriate amount of judges and commissioners for their caseloads. Because there are more than six judges the Supreme Court rules that judges rotate divisions. There is a rotation plan that is agreed to by the judges and approved by the chief judge who is their administrator. Retirements and elections can affect the rotations and placement in divisions. The divisions are Criminal, Family/Divorce, Civil, and Juvenile. Currently Mental Health is assigned to the Juvenile Court Judge due to the Opiate epidemic, and the high number of Children in Need of Protection and Services Petitions (CHPS) filings. The Juvenile Court Judge will experience challenging cases in Juvenile Court but decisions can have long-term impacts. Terms run as non-partisan officials August 1 to July 31 for six years.

Judge Foster discussed Guardianships which are a 5% weighted caseload impact. A judge assigned Guardianships devotes 5% of their work week to that. Guardianships are a specialized area and is a Civil proceeding, however Guardianships could be placed in Family Court or Mental Health Court but is dependent on the weighted caseload.

Judge Foster also discussed the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) who is generally appointed by the Court. The GAL looks out for the best interest of the person and not necessarily to be their advocate. Generally someone who has a GAL appointed for them will also have an advocate counsel especially in Juvenile Court and if it is a CHPS case. There are specific trainings for Guardian ad Litem's as this is a unique service that attorney's perform. A question was asked regarding the assignment of a GAL. Judge Foster explained that there are cases where a GAL is chosen from a listing and assigned by the court clerk, but many times it is dependent on the GAL's availability. Another question was asked about guardianship with relative versus adoption of a relative. Judge Foster stated that is a personal decision and it's a question of how willing is the family member, and other factors and variables involved. The question was asked about the age of a child needing to be assigned a GAL. Judge Foster explained a GAL can be assigned for a child up to age 18 however it can be the judges choice whether to assign a GAL dependent on each families unique circumstances.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES:

Speaker was not present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Unmet Needs Public Hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2017 at 2:45 p.m. A Doodle will be sent out in a CAFSAC email to sign-up and be a part of the subcommittee, with presentation planning forthcoming.

Vickie Smith, Supervisor of the Shared Services & Foster Care Licensing shared an event coming up on February 22, 2017 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. This event is to create Foster Care Ambassadors who can distribute marketing materials, information and teaching people about Foster Care to seek individuals who may be interested in being foster parents.

ADJOURNMENT

Karen Villarreal moved to adjourn, seconded by Judge Kathryn Foster.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 271 at the Human Services Center Building, 514 Riverview Avenue.

February 16, 2017

APPROVED

*Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Kokan,
Administrative Specialist*