

**CRP Serving Outagamie County**  
**May 1, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Lacey Coonen, Lisa Hunt, Jennifer Sailor, Mary Kleman, Andrea Alpert-Buss, Mary Wisnet, Melissa Blom, Kimberly Van Hoof, Pastor Larry Creamer, Connie Raether, Rebecca Spulak, Sara Laumer, guests Michelle Swardenski and Amanda Chavez, Wendy Gehl, Carrie Schneider, Amy Ziglinski, Karen Dickrell

**Approval of minutes;** Melissa moves, Mary W. seconds approval. Motion carries

**Treasurer's report (Lisa):** Balance \$8190.75 minus what we spend on the two people attending the National Conference.

**Any ideas for spending our money:**

Request for \$2000 to send two staff and two CRP members to TOPS (Technology of Participation) training in Green Bay. Mary W. moves, Mary K. seconds approval. Motion carries.

Request for up to \$500 to print 1000 new GAL flyers and 250 inserts specifically for CHIPS cases. Mary W. moves, Melissa B. seconds, approval. Motion carries.

Request to purchase a case for the foster care quilt. Jennifer will check into cost. This would fit into education and awareness. Mary K. moves, Mary W. seconds, approval to purchase display case if funds are available. Motion carries.

**National Conference June 6-8, 2019:** Mary Kleman and Rebecca Spulak will attend.

**Hands Around the Capitol:** Youth Advisory Council is planning this event on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Madison. Pastor Larry plans to attend. Jennifer will see if there is interest among the foster parents and if so, we could rent a van.

**Facebook and Website:** Pastor Larry, Emily and Connie are updating the facebook page. Please go to the facebook page and share it. Emily, Sara and Pastor Larry will meet to get the website going.

**Case Review Discussion:**

Kids in care on and off since 2010, consistently since 2012, 2013.  
1<sup>st</sup> perm plan was reunification with a concurrent plan of adoption and TPR

2 phases to TPR: grounds case (ie. Length of time in CHIPS, abandonment, failure to assume parental responsibility) and disposition.

**Legal barriers:**

- changing workers, 5 workers, 3 DAs
- 3 judges
- Dad incarcerated, over 52,000 pages of discovery
- Mom often incarcerated.
- 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at TPR in 2013: dismissed due to typo, 2<sup>nd</sup> time dismissed due to conditions not attached.
- Difficulty finding attys. To represent parents, and a lot of attorneys won't take TPR cases
- Dismissed again as mom claimed Native American blood
- Workers not prepared for depositions
- Conditions had to be re-written
- Documentation lacking of notice to dad
- Difference between suspension and denial of visits; only the court can deny visits
- New TPR petitions filed in 2016; hired private attorneys, dismissed on summary judgment.
- Nov. 20, 2018: grounds found Dispo held Dec. 18. Notice of intent to appeal filed by dad

**Issues:**

- Need more legal training for social workers or a paralegal on staff
- Lack of attys willing to take TPR cases
- Need more support for foster parents
- Saw the GAL once in 6 years
- Cases bumped for criminal cases
- Lack of enough district attorneys
- TPR supposed to happen after 15 out of 22 months
- Can appoint reserve judges
- Trials should happen in 45 days
- Lack of court time
- Difficulty scheduling court due to attorney schedules/vacations/etc.

**Things that have changed:**

- DA's office will be drafting TPRs, not workers
- DA's office is hiring two attorneys and a paralegal

Lacey reported that 2 months ago there were 18 cases backlogged. Since then, 2 cases have been TPRd, 2 cases filed, and 7 petitions are being sent back to the Dept. for review. They are looking at the entire system to see what the issues are and what can be fixed. 3 judges are assigned to CHIPS cases, but TPRs are assigned to any of the 7 judges. If parents had attorneys that were appointed, cases would go to disposition sooner. Higher reimbursement for private appointed attorneys to serve as public defenders is important. Increase from \$40 to \$70 is what is in the Governor's budget. Need it to stay in the budget. Pastor Larry CRP will draft a letter and send it around.

**Crisis in out of home care—next steps: Melissa.** Advertise need for foster parents on website and facebook. Goal is to reduce kids in out of home care by 30%.

- Support the resolution to fully fund child protective services at \$30 million.

- Advocate for stopping repetitive reporting requirements.
- Advocate for affordable housing
- Help with hiring and retaining staff
- Suggest a statewide meeting focused on the crisis
- Support Families First federal legislation
- Ask Alicia about support for the \$30 million resolution.
- Attend and speak at May Outagamie County budget meetings
- See if United Way policy committee is interested in pursuing this issue: Mary will check.
- Send out the budget
- Contact Chris Czarnik about recruitment strategies for child protection workers.

Several strategies have been created to reduce number of kids in out of home care. 178 kids are in care on the ongoing team. Parental addiction, lack of motivation, mental health issues, incarceration, special needs, lack of housing, staff turnover are some of the major issues keeping kids from returning home.

The United Way decided to focus on AODA, Mental Health and Parenting; May 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. Panel at the United Way office to look at strategies for addressing AODA issues. Everyone is welcome to attend: Let Mary know at [mary.wisnet@unitedwayfoxcities.org](mailto:mary.wisnet@unitedwayfoxcities.org)

Connie will put together a survey to see what options there are and where the interest lies among panel members.

**Period of Purple Crying (Andrea): Update:** Mary is trying to set up a training session for the Community Health Center staff about sentinel injuries. Not sure if date has been confirmed.

**GAL Task Team (Andrea); Update:** Team is putting the final revisions on the survey and will be sending it out. It will be a bit broader than just questions about GALs: It will also have questions about the system and the process. Once the results are tabulated, team will review and chunk out the issues that need attention and see if there are ways the CRP can assist. Team will meet in April with final product to review and send out. Michelle Swardinski joined the task group.

**Retention and Resiliency Work Group Update:**

The work group members are as follows:

Julies Souza (ongoing)

Becky Salzman (ongoing)

Brittany Plamann (intake)

Tina Weinke (intake) - new addition

Barb Reader (access) - new addition

Lori Hewitt (Community Connections)

Anne Cocherl (Family Find/Foster Care)

Staci Meitner (home consultants) - new addition

Stephanie Denson (supervisors) - new addition

Wendy Gehl (Citizen Review Panel)

Andrea Alpert-Buss (Citizen Review Panel)

Julie Koopikka and Andrea Alpert-Buss are co-facilitators

Meeting of the group is scheduled in early May. Ten additional staff members were interested in joining the work group, but space wasn't available. Hopefully their participation can be engaged in other ways.

**Child Death Review Team (Pastor Larry):** No update

**New Member Subcommittee):** No update

**Outreach** (Mary KLeMan): The Pinwheels for Prevention event for Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month was held on Thursday, April 4, 2019: 4:30 - 5 pm at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley, 160 S Badger Ave, Appleton. Members participating in the planning were Mary Kleman, Jennifer Sailer and Lisa Hunt. Amanda Chavez from the Boys & Girls Club provided a huge amount of support for the event. 240 Pinwheels were planted by members of the Boys and Girls Club. There was media present at the event.

**Outagamie Budget Hearing:** Monday May 6, 4:30 at Brewster Village. Connie will testify...Melissa will send info.

**New Recorder:** If anyone is interested, this position is open. If you'd like to learn more about this position, please contact Connie at [connieraether@gmail.com](mailto:connieraether@gmail.com)

**Next meeting: July 10, 2019**

**Upcoming meetings: Sept. 4, Nov. 6**

**Case Review: Oct. 2**