

FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE

Monday, November 7, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Bjerke, Mike Boehm, Chris Crye, Megan DeVore, Gloria Doyle, James Falvey, Maureen Freedland, Sheila Garrity, Lorie Graff, Troy Harcey, Grace Jones, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Ann Kramer, Janet Kusch, Mary Meehan-Strub, Tom Miller, Jeff Murawski, Debbie Olufs, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Mike Schnitzius, Ruthann Schultz, Pam Sharp for Jeff Trotnic, Beth Sullivan, Gaye Tylka, Julie Van Dunk, Jason Witt and Mary Kay Wolf

CALL TO ORDER

Grace Jones called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August 1st meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 10/03/11 MEETING

MOTION by James Falvey/Janet Kusch to approve the October 3, 2011 minutes as presented; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Grace Jones introduced Gloria Doyle to do the agency presentation for the Family Court.

AGENCY PRESENTATION: FAMILY COURT: GLORIA DOYLE

Gloria Doyle reports that there are five Circuit Court Judges and that she is the only Family Court Judge. Gloria handles Family Law matters. To start the divorce proceedings it takes 120 days minimum until the divorce is final as decisions have to be made regarding the custody of the children, bills that need to be paid, who gets what assets, etc. Gloria handles “harassment orders” and “domestic violence injunctions”. Gloria does the Child Support Calendar to make financial determinations. On Tuesdays Gloria does the Enforcement Calendar in which she sees cases involving Contempt of Court, not paying Child Support, job searches, etc. Gloria works with post judgment issues, i.e., change of placement, bills, etc.

In 2010 the Family Court had 625 Divorces/Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgement cases and 203 Paternity cases.

In 2011 the Family Court has had 580 Divorce/Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment cases and 236 Paternity cases.

Gloria reports that she hears custody/placement issues affecting children. In some of these cases she will appoint a CAT (Custody Assessment Team) Team if mediation is unsuccessful. The CAT Team consists of a GAL (Guardian Ad Litem) who works with the children to see what is in the best interest of the child(ren) and a Mental Health expert who focuses on the children’s needs and Mediation who organizes the team and does home studies and the paperwork.

Gloria reports that parents are often court ordered to go to Families First which is classes for the parents to help them with co-parenting after divorce, the cost for this is \$40.00 per parent. The filing fee for a divorce case is \$240.00. There is a fee to have the papers served. Mediation is \$100.00 per parent. A CAT Team costs \$4400.00. The Family Court Commissioner is County funded.

Pro Se cases are floundering and this is a problem for people as they are not trained to present their case to the courts.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES:

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Jason Witt**
and
- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**

Jason Witt reports that the IM (Income Maintenance) Regional Consortium is currently in negotiation as they want to make sure the State can't change the contracts and they want to make sure the counties are provided time to ramp up to meet the Performance Standards set by the State.

DHS has submitted a waiver to the Federal government and if the waiver is not approved before 12/31/11, the department is required under the State Biennial Budget to reduce eligibility for any adult who is not disabled or pregnant to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Handouts were provided regarding the Medicaid and BadgerCare cuts.

If the waiver is not approved 50,000-60,000 people would lose BadgerCare.

This committee proposed doing/drafting a letter regarding this issue and the impact these cuts will have on the community. This committee unanimously agreed that a letter should be drafted. Grace Jones stated that this would be discussed at the Family Policy Board Executive Committee meeting which is scheduled after this meeting and that this committee would work on a draft letter.

- **Family and Children's Section Update: Nancy Pohlman**

Implementation for the Permanency Round Tables is underway and an orientation meeting will be scheduled for early December for our legal partners (Judges, Attorney's and GAL's).

We completed and submitted an application to receive IV-E legal funding. We are requesting approximately \$48,000 (based on existing allowable legal services match formula) that will be dedicated to increasing timely permanency through the purchase of additional legal services. We will purchase contracted legal services for select cases. This funding will assist us in 2012.

We are submitting a proposal to DCF to be considered as one of the possible 4 – 6 sites in the state for funding of in-home safety services. DCF will be awarding approximately \$1.3 million dollars to support innovative programming and safety services to maintain children safely in their homes. The funding will cover two years of services and we must be able to serve 50 families in year one and 150 families in year two. We are exploring forming a multi-county consortium to commit to the proposal and to meet the requirements of having an adequate pool of families over the two years that will receive the services.

AGENCY UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS: ALL

Catherine Kolkmeier of the Health Science Consortium reported that she is starting a Violence Prevention Subcommittee and that they will be meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Health Sciences Consortium. Catherine provided information regarding the Health Science Consortium Intern-Project Matching Website, this is where you post a project you need assistance with and they will match an intern to help with the project, the information is as follows:

Health Science Consortium Intern-Project Matching Website:

http://www.lacrosseconsortium.org/content/healthiest_county/student_and_community_opportunities

or go to:

www.lacrosseconsortium.org >> Healthiest County 2015 >> Community Opportunities

Janet Kusch of Garrison Counseling reported that Tara Johnson won the Eleanor Roosevelt Award.

ADJOURN: Today's meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Grace Jones

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 5, 2011

Approved - December 5, 2011, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder