Trend Analysis Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2008, 1:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Location: DHS Building, room #224 (120 N. 200 W., Salt Lake City)
In Attendance: Angela Robbins, Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Bert Peterson, Beverly Hart, Carol Miller, Casey Christopherson, Darla Taylor, Darren Burdette, Jane Lewis, Jeff Harrop, Judy Hull, Kevin Jackson, Linda Prince, Linda Wininger, Marty Shannon, Mike Pomeroy, Phyllis Lee (by phone), Reba Nissan, Sam Syphrett (by phone), Tanya Albornoz, Tonya Myrup.

Notes

The Yearly Trends report is out for the fiscal year 2008. What are the positive trends? Which trends do need attention?

Aude welcomed everyone to the meeting. The yearly trend report is available at http://www.hsdcfs.state.ut.us/QuarterlyReport.htm. She presented a handout and PowerPoint of yearly trends data for review. The first part of this handout contains trends in which we are doing well:

- *Trend 16: Adoption placement disruptions before finalization: We have done really well in this area, and data entry is partially responsible. We may see a change in the future as we are changing SAFE to track data differently for adoptions.*
- *Trend 1: HB clients who enter SCF within 12 months of case closure: This has been trending downward, which is positive. Our new kinship practice may affect this as we are coding cases differently when children are placed with kin.*
- *Trend 3: CPS child victims with a prior HB or SCF case within the past 12 months: This has been trending downward, which is another encouraging trend.*
- *Trend 9: CPS Priority Time Frames: The trend of seeing the child victims within the required priority time frames in CPS cases continues to show improved performance.*
- *Trend 7: Reentry: This trend relates to Trends 1 and 3, and shows that fewer children have been re-entering foster care.*

Trend 10: Children with fewer than 3 placement changes:

- *What is the latest trend in placement stability?*
- *What are the regions reporting about their efforts and barriers?*

This is trending downward, which is not good. Children in care are experiencing more placement changes per foster care episode.

- *Tanya explained that the congregate care workgroup recommended that we move away from short-term placements.*

- *Each region has their own criteria for approving and making placement changes and dealing with placement disruptions. We may start seeing a difference in this trend in the future due to the changes in different regions.*
- *Sibling groups are a real challenge.*
- *We have looked at different cohorts in this trend. We may want to look at resource family consultants (RFCs) and how they help find placements and support foster families. Some regions would like more RFCs in order to model the way they are utilized in Salt Lake Valley Region. A statewide RFC summit was held recently, and Tanya started to meet regularly with RFC supervisors of all regions to discuss the role of RFCs.*
- *We are looking at utilizing our foster-only homes for placements until we can find a more permanent home for children.*
- *For the priority focus area on placement stability, each region's placement stability plan will be reviewed to see if they have been useful.*
- *Salt Lake Valley Region is getting their RFCs involved upfront as they have a good idea of what placements are available.*
- *Southwest Region's administrative team meets twice per month to review cases with two placement changes with a goal of trying to prevent another change. Sam will share the suggestions mentioned in this meeting with his administrative team regarding how to improve in this area.*

Region milestone coordinators will look at their placement stability plan and report back to Tanya about how useful they have been by the next Trends Analysis Committee meeting.

Number of SCF cases open/months in care: What are the trends telling us about the number of children in SCF? Any changes in how long they are staying in care? **Trend 8**, in particular "Average number of months children in custody". Also, **Trend 6**, "children who attain permanency in one year".

Children exiting care within 12 months has dropped, while the average number of months in care has risen. However, we are doing better with our reentry rates.

- *We have more families with substance abuse as a contributing factor, and judges are more reluctant to send children home. However, the data about substance abuse as a contributing factor may not be accurate as it's not always recorded in each case. We may want to look at when this is prompted for and recorded in SAFE.*
- *When working with substance abusing families, the foster care timeframes are unrealistic. It may be helpful to have more accurate data to address this problem.*

Angela, Tanya, and Navina will talk with Ken to see if he is doing any work in this area. They will also look to see if there is a place to record this data in a better way and will report back to the committee.

- *This trend mirrors the increase of children placed in residential placements (Trend 11).*

Trend 11: Number of children in residential care: The number has more than doubled in 6 years! The percentage has increased, too. In SLV every 5th kid in SCF is in a residential placement.

Children in residential care tend to stay in care longer than other children.

- *Tonya gathered information from her region supervisors about why children are remaining in residential care. She received many reasons – mostly keeping children from JJS, more difficult children, etc.*
- *Judges sometimes order specific treatment for children.*
- *We currently are not working directly with JJS to see if children should be ordered into our care, which usually results in the child going to residential care.*
- *When children come in for delinquency, timeframes are not applicable because there was no abuse and/or neglect. However, they are tracked the same by the federal government.*
- *Youth are remaining in care after they reach the age of 18, until they graduate from high school or obtain their GED per the judges' orders. This is also reflected in trend 14, which shows the education level of children leaving care.*
- *Youth will be tracked after they leave care to see what their outcomes are. We will be piloting this tracking system in October 2008 in order to be able to report to the federal government.*

At the department level, we should look at how we serve these youth (wrap-around services in their homes, etc.). This will be addressed with Lisa-Michele Church.

State PIT team presents the areas that we will focus on this year for improving the CPR (plan timeliness and family involvement in planning).

CPR scores are good this year, with the exception of participation of family members in planning (issues with documentation), and timeliness of plans (initial plans are not being finalized in time).

The supervisor finishing touches forms are being revised.

Next meeting:

November 12, 2008 from 1 to 3pm.