

Trends Analysis Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting held October 1, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In attendance: Aude Bermond-Hamlet (State Office), Brad Newbold (State Office), Carol Miller (State Office), Charity Burnside (Eastern Region), Del Bircher (State Office), Jeff Harrop (State Office), Judy Hull (State Office), Judy Maynard (Salt Lake Valley Region), Ken McCauley (Salt Lake Valley Region), Kevin Webb (Eastern Region), Jennifer Larson (State Office), Marnie Maxwell (State Office), Mary Wilder (Salt Lake Valley Region), Nancy Barowski (Northern Region), Sam Syphrett (Southwest Region), Tonya Myrup (Salt Lake Valley Region), Vanessa Amburgey (State Office)

Regional Trends

| Topic | Discussion | Decisions/Assignments |
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| Children Linger in Preliminary Placements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken McCauley and Judy Maynard shared some concerning trends they are seeing in the Salt Lake Valley Region. • We have a lot of children lingering in Preliminary Placements (90 days and beyond). • The Live Scan and home study process can be intrusive, and many kinship caregivers do not want to become licensed. • One of the options is for kin to request the judge to grant them permanent custody and guardianship and have us provide PSS services. But some judges hesitate to grant this when the children are still young. Families do not feel they have a voice in the court system. • Caseworkers need to be educated on the options available for these families. Regional kinship specialists can help with this. However, they usually are involved at the beginning of the case, not when the kin caregivers start to have doubts about the licensing process. • We need to document what information was shared with kinship caregivers so we can determine what has been shared with them. • It was suggested that caseworkers receive a reminder (three months, six months, etc.) when a child remains in a Preliminary Placement to help move the case toward permanency. We would need to create policy around this requirement, without adding more work for caseworkers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kinship Forum to explore creating a statewide form/document that explains the kin caregivers' options in regards to becoming licensed or obtaining permanent custody and guardianship with the pros and cons. A document they would sign. • The Kinship Forum will explore having a requirement for caseworkers to receive notices when a child lingers in a Preliminary Placement. • Judy Hull will determine what data we need to track in the kinship program area. |
| Disruptions in Kinship/Adoptive Placements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have children who come back into care from kinship/adoptive placements. • It would be helpful to track this information to determine why these placements fail. It is difficult to track because when adoptions occur, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aude will see what reports Linda Prince has pulled for Judy Maynard in the past around failed adoptions; |

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| | <p>many times the information for the child changes (including the child's name, Social Security Number, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many CPS investigations on kin caregivers, they are "conflict of interest" cases. • The committee would like to determine if this is a statewide issue. • Kinship in SAFE training will be web-based and will be released sometime soon. | <p>Vanessa and Aude will look at what other data can be pulled to see what the situation is like statewide. The committee will review it at the next meeting.</p> |
| CPS Removals without an Ongoing Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes we remove a child during a CPS investigation, but no PSS or other ongoing case is subsequently opened. Vanessa pulled some data that was shared with the committee. Over the last year 7% of the CPS removals were released without a SCF or PSS case being opened. • There are circumstances where this is appropriate (non-custodial parent comes and picks up the child, etc.). • Judy Hull is receiving feedback that children are removed and placed with kin, and then there is no follow-up from us. Judy Hull will let the group know if this trend continues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanessa will provide additional data showing cases that are open for more than a few days for review at the next meeting. |

Data from the Quarterly Report, 4th Quarter FY2012

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| Primary Reason for Removal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee has been tracking these data. There was overlap in some of the primary reasons, and caseworkers or techs who enter this data may not know what reason to choose or understand the exact definitions of each reason. • Caseworkers need to receive training or a tool to understand which primary reason to select. • Aude requested that these data be displayed with only one decimal point. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aude met with key people from the State Office to discuss this issue. She will follow-up on this item. • Aude will contact Navina to see if we can create a document that contains definitions of primary reasons that can be placed on the SAFE main page or our website for caseworkers to review. |

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| Miscellaneous Items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked at data sent by Navina on percent of supported vs. unsupported allegations over time. The percent of supported Neglect allegations, for example, has remained consistent. So has DVRCA (except that now we accept a lot fewer DVRCA referrals because of the change in the law). What's fascinating is that we support DVRCA more than half of the time (57% on average), while Non-Supervision and Physical Abuse only a quarter of the time. See attached Excel document for details. • Number of Foster Care Cases has increased since last year. We are now at 2715 kids in care. We had reached a peak of about 2800 two years ago and dropped down below 2600, but are gradually increasing again. • Percentage of Unaccepted Referrals is steady statewide due to Centralized Intake. • We have reached the federal goal on kids in foster care who do not experience abuse/neglect while in care (99.68%). • Our re-entry rate data measure has been "fixed", but it is quite high (12%), with the exception of Southwest Region. • Placement stability has improved over time, but has plateaued. We still have not reached our federal goal. • We see a slight increase of the number of foster families in our system. • We have improved in the rate of first placements with kin and average months to reaching custody and guardianship with kin. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will continue to review re-entry data. |

Next Trends Analysis Committee Meeting

January 14, 2013, 10am to 12pm