

Trend Analysis Committee Meeting

Notes

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: DHS Building, Salt Lake City, Room 212

In Attendance: Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Bert Peterson, Beverly Hart, Carol Miller, JJ Glazier, Judy Hull, Kevin Jackson, Linda Prince, Linda Winger, Phyllis Lee (by phone), Reba Nissen, Sam Syphrett (by phone), Tanya Albornoz

What trends/data do we want to continue tracking?

The Trend Indicators - Quarterly Report was distributed for review. If it is decided that we would like to make changes to these trend indicators, the proposed changes will need to go to the State Quality Improvement Committee for review and approval. We previously spent time looking at Placement Stability and Re-entry Into Care, and the group discussed where we are on these two items at this point.

Placement Stability

It is felt we struggle with this issue due to our use of shelter care and how well we can track placement changes. Other points:

- It was proposed that we target the use of shelter care when there is a placement disruption.
- We need to do more to preserve placements.
- Delaware uses their citizen review boards as placement review boards.
- We need a stronger strategy for reducing placement changes.
- There is a lack of supports in our communities.
- Low pay for foster parents may be part of the problem.
- We may want to do a market comparability study on payments for foster parents. We will utilize the information in the "Hitting the MARC: Establishing Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates for children" study that was recently published by Children's Rights, the National Foster Parent Association, and the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Their reports can be found at: <http://www.childrensrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=HittingTheMarc>
- It might be helpful to boost foster parent training and caseworker training to strengthen placement commitments.

It was decided that we will hold an all-day meeting for our next meeting, focusing on placement stability. Aude will invite people from the Utah Foster Care Foundation to talk about these issues. Aude will also invite Resource Family Consultants from each region, as follows:

Eastern: Jacina Barrett
Northern: Maegan Bernardo
Salt Lake Valley: Judy Maynard; Ken McCauley
Southwest: Destry Maycock, Robert Johnson, Bruce Zylks
Western: Patricia Jensen

Re-entry Into Care

We seem to be trending downward on this item.

General Discussion

Several of our trend indicators are also being tracked for the Federal Child and Family Services Review. The committee would like to know which ones they are and how they fit together. **Aude and Linda W. will work with the Data Unit on this item and will present the information to the committee in the future.**

It was also suggested that we try to illustrate what trends have occurred with our application of the Practice Model. The QCR results are a good way to track this information.

We need to think about other items that we may not be tracking at this point but that would be helpful in the future (i.e., Kinship cases, In-Home Services, etc.).

Increase in number of children in foster care

We did not have enough time to discuss this item at this meeting. This item is tabled for an upcoming meeting.

Next meeting

Our next meeting has tentatively been scheduled for:

FEBRUARY 22, 2008, FROM 10AM TO 3PM, IN THE SPANISH FORK OFFICE