

Family and Children's Trust Committee
January 7, 2013
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present

Mary Kay Miller, chair, Marianne Gagen, Belinda Lucey, Joseph De Luca, Alicia Coleman-Clark, Cathryn Freitas, Ruth Fernandez, Lisa Johnson.

Staff Present

Rhonda Smith, Elaine Burren

Call to order:

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 due to lack of a quorum until then.

Review of Minutes (10/29/12)

Joe Deluca moved acceptance, Belinda Lucey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposal Rate & Reviewing Process

This item was postponed until our next meeting.

Stakeholder Presentations

Dr. Abe Rice, a pediatrician at **Pittsburg Health Center**, has worked with children in child welfare, the foster care system and children who are exposed to violence. He referenced studies that show that violence affects children physically as well as emotionally, and academically. Children's brains do not develop as well. Secure attachment relationships are affected. There are higher rates of asthma, diarrhea, ADHD, Bipolar, academic problems, risk taking behaviors, and early teen pregnancy in children who have either been the victims of or have witnessed violence.

Because foster care children can have multiple placements, he advocates for every foster child to have a medical home, a place where all of the child's needs are met: physical as well as emotional, mental, academic, developmental, behavioral, and seeing the children in the context of the family.

Children need care that is accessible, coordinated, comprehensive, continuous, compassionate, and focused on the child rather than on the adults.

The Foster Care plan that has been designed gives foster care children access to a pediatrician with 30 minute appointments that are scheduled within a week in all health centers in the County. Public health nurses have done outreach for getting children into the system, coordinating with social workers, but their positions are being cut in favor of LVN nurses. Collaboration occurs at the worker/service provider level rather than the administrative level.

Iris and Keith Archuleta from **YIN, Youth Intervention Network**, in Antioch spoke next. Keith is president of the board of the intervention network which was started to deal with causes of youth violence. The network is a collaborative of youth

intervention agencies and volunteers who serve as mediators and advocates in educational issues.

2 indicators of youth violence victims or perpetrators are truancy and academic disengagement.

They work with students 10-18 to keep them in school and to help them succeed academically.

The last speaker was Michelle Williams is a Public Health nurse whose primary role is to help foster care children get access to medical care.

In addition, she has trained hundreds of health care providers in the **Nurtured Heart Approach**. The program is a prevention program that gives adults tools to nurture children effectively so that the children will be successful.

She has trained adults in 7 group homes, as well as ministers and schools. This program reduces incidences of disruptive behavior in the home and in school and has been shown to have positive academic outcome as well.

Open Discussion/Additions

Following the last presenter, Mary Kay noted that much of what we had needed to accomplish related to the RFP process had not occurred for a variety of reasons. In order to adhere to our deadline for releasing the RFP in mid-February, the following will need to happen:

1. Complete the discussion of parent/professional survey results,
2. Develop RFP priorities based on the surveys,
3. Review and revise the RFP document as necessary,
4. Approve RFP release.

Accordingly, the committee agreed to extend the February meeting for an extra hour. It is imperative that we have a quorum and that everyone make every effort to attend the full three hours.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

NEXT MEETING:

February 4, 2013

9:30-12:30 PM

40 Douglas Drive Rm. 101/102