

State Advisory Council Meeting

April 11, 2023 – Via Zoom

Members Present: Julie Fleck, Megan Bailey, Julie Burk, Greg Daly, Carrie Krepps, Serena Wright OPI, Dana Toole, Ben Davis

CFSD Representatives Present: Nikki Grossberg, Brandi Loch, Eric Barnosky, Jennifer Blodgett, Theresa Becker, Sahrita Jones-Jessee, Deb Cole, Mick Leary, Kate Larcom, Courtney Callaghan, Lynne Johnston

Guests: Chanetta Stewart, Antonica Frazier, Mike Burk

Absent: Effie Benoit, Rochelle Belley, April Barnings, Sean Schoenfelder, Valerie Winfield, Jennifer Hoerauf, Christy Hendricks, Judge Randall Spaulding, Bonnie Bear Don't Walk

9:00-9:10am Welcome, Introductions (Chair needs Vice Chair?)

Rochelle Beley, Chair, is unable to attend and Nikki asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be Vice Chair for the day? No response. Nikki is waiting on getting the minutes from the January meeting of the Children's Bureau. Everyone introduced themselves.

9:10-9:20am Approve Minutes

Nikki asked if the minutes of October 22, 2022 are ready to be approved. Motion to approve by Megan Bailey and seconded by Dana Toole. Minutes of October 22, 2022 are approved as submitted.

9:20-9:35am Center for State Role & Responsibilities by Chanetta Stewart

Chanetta Stewart shared a powerpoint presentation on what the roles and responsibilities are for the Center for States.

- Chanetta explained the hierarchy of the Center for States which begins with the US Dept of Health & Human Services, then under them is the Administration for Children & Families and under them is the Children's Bureau and under them is the Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative (Center for States).
- The mission of the Center for States is to build capacity within state and territorial public child welfare agencies to improve practice, meet organizational goals and federal requirements, and advance racial equity ultimately improving safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for children youth and families.
- The five dimensions of organizational capacity are Resources, Infrastructure, Knowledge & Skills, Organization Culture & Climate, and Engagement & Partnership.
- The Center for State developed a project with Montana for their involvement to support development of Stakeholder Engagement.
- Ben Davis asked about the timeline of the project. End date is six months from start of project which began in April, 2023.
- The Center for State will work with Connected Voices, Youth Advisory Board and State Advisory Council. SAC includes Regional Advisory Board, but the Center for State will work with just SAC.

9:35-9:45am Importance of Lived Experience by Antonica Frazier

Antonica began her presentation by starting with an icebreaker activity. She asked everyone what household item best describes you? Antonica gave an overview of her role with the Center for State. She explained the importance of lived experience and sharing with others on what they have experienced.

9:45-10:00am Recap of January SAC Meeting by Mike Burk

Mike Burk gave a high level overview of the January SAC meeting. The Children's Bureau comes out to let the state's understand what they need to improve.

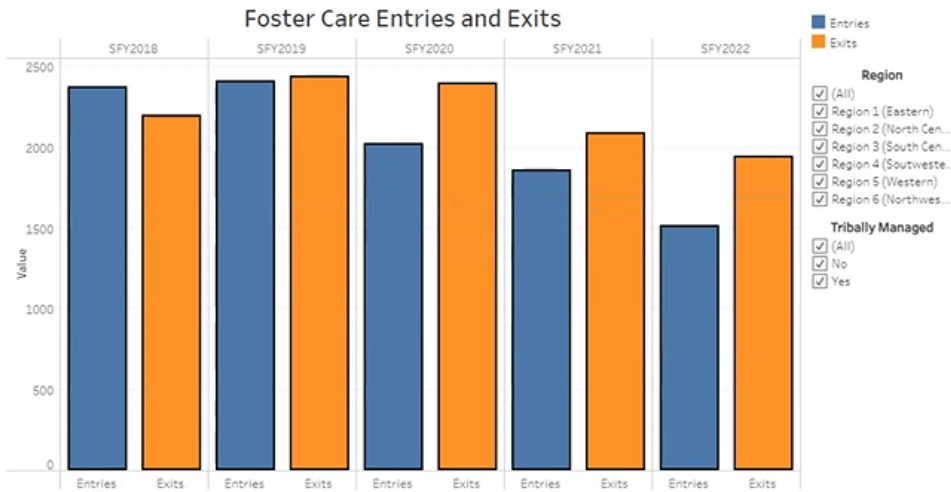
- How can the state help the SAC and use it as a feedback tube and drive outcomes for the kids and families?
- Megan mentioned that if there is anything she can do to facilitate help for the tribal families, let her know since they are in dire need of child welfare assistance.
- Julie Burk mentioned that CIP (Court Improvement Program) is beginning to launch an ICWA community of practice.
- Megan mentioned that for youth engagement she would love to promote engagement of their American Indian youth. She would be happy to introduce a number of Urban Indian Health organizations that are involved in our communities who are disproportionately represented.

10:00-10:50am CQI Process (Entries & Exits and Prevention Efforts by Mike Burk)

Brandi explained the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan, how it is applied and the primary focus areas. Act – Plan – Study – Do.

- Identify and understand the problem
- Match the right solution to the problem
- Monitor implement of the solution and adapt as necessary
- Focus is around permanency
- Work on Prevention

Nikki presented the Foster Care Entry and Exit charts which showed how many kids have been removed and entered over the past five years. There have been more exits than entries of kids which means that we have been able to keep kids in their homes. The ultimate goal is safety of the children and permanency within 12 months. Removals have been reduced by 41% over the last five years.



Children and Family Services Division's (CFSD) mission is to keep children safe and families strong. CFSD has safely reduced the number of children in foster care through increasing prevention efforts and streamlining permanency processes.

Over the past 5 years, the number of children removed from their families has decreased by 41% and the number of children in foster care has decreased by 28%.

Healthy child welfare systems have more children exiting foster care than entering it. The longer children linger in foster care, the greater the risk of aging out of the foster care system. Over the past 4 years in Montana, children safely exiting foster care to permanency have outnumbered children entering foster care.

Nikki discussed with members and staff about what we can do as a system in Montana to enhance our prevention around child abuse and neglect and bring what is already being done to the forefront. Is there another place for the families who are getting called into Centralized Intake but don't cross our threshold either for an investigation or during our investigation for safety? It does not mean that families do not need help and assistance.

Nikki asked Ben Davis if he knows if there are other ways we can partner more and identify more kids. Friends of Montana is involved in Missoula and Yellowstone County. Ben reported that they are focused on Lake County and with the Flathead nation as well as Mineral County and Lewis & Clark County. They want to follow-up with Region 5 leadership.

Megan asked about the RFP that went out last week about Regional Chafee groups and would like more information. There was not enough information in the RFP to help her in putting an RFP together and would like more information. Mick explained what the Regional Chafee RFP involved.

Antonica of Children's Bureau asked what everyone's experience was on serving on Advisory Councils and are there aspects of those Councils that can be used here?

- Julie Burk explained that her advisory council meets 4 times a year with 12 people. She sets up a detailed agenda, what is expected from everyone and what discussion she would like to hear about.
- Megan Beley – How can we better organize and support others? We could mobilize a sub-committee with a more robust structure.

Mike Burk reviewed the Levels of Engagement

- Inform to provide balanced, objective, accurate and consistent information.
- Consult to obtain feedback from Partners on goals, strategy, alternatives, analysis and/or outcomes.
- Involve to work directly with Partners throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and needs are consistently understood and considered.
- Collaborate to work with Partners on decision-making.

Mike asked members to go to a link to answer the following question: Where do you think this group is now and where should it get to?

Regional Advisory Councils by Nikki Grossberg

How do you see your role on this Council assisting the work of the Regional Advisory Councils?

How many have attended Regional Advisory Council?

- Different regions have had difference levels of engagement
- Not everyone is familiar with Regional Advisory Council
- What information is important for this group to hear?
- Have the regional meetings on a set schedule to make it easier to plan and attend regularly
- Is it virtual?
- How can we support and track
- Don't understand the role and responsibilities of the Regional Advisory Council
- Work in tandem, cross promotion and informing
- Would like to see minutes from other meetings
- Brandi mentioned that we need a feedback loop
- Chanetta asked "How do we know who to contact" and "How does she know where to go to find out when a Regional Advisory Council will occur in her area?"
- In terms of the PDSA cycle, at what point do you see this Council "fitting in"?

What do you need from CFSD staff to support you in this process and to be able to be an effective feedback loop? Send your response to Nikki Grossberg.

Let Nikki know about any Current and Future Membership. The next meeting will be July 21, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56am