

## CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (MACCAN)  
Tuesday – September 26, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Child and Family Services Agency  
200 I Street SE, Conference Room 2203-A  
Washington, DC 20003

### Draft Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order
  - Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am
2. Ascertainment of Quorum
  - A quorum was reached for the meeting.
  - Meeting participants introduced themselves.
3. Acknowledgement of Adoption of the Minutes of the July 25, 2017 meeting
  - The minutes were accepted as written. There were no questions or comments.
4. Report by the Chair and Co-Chair of MACCAN
  - 2018 Annual Meeting Schedule was distributed
  - Final distribution: Think before you Spank Rack Cards
    - Distribution Plan was shared with the committee
    - Remaining cards were made available
5. Discussion
  - Ethics Training  
Ashley D. Cooks  
Attorney Advisor/ Training Coordinator  
Board of Ethics and Government Accountability
    - Annual Ethics training was conducted by Ashley D. Cooks
    - Please see the accompanying PPT.
    - Names of participants will be sent to BEGA for appropriate credit
    - We can set up another training for those members who missed this session
    - Training evaluation forms were distributed for completion
  - Temporary Safe Haven Redesign Update  
*Note: The private non-profit The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) was selected as the major partner. NCCF proposes to have a subcontract for some specialized services with Family Matters of Greater Washington.*
    - Question: Can anyone speak on the Safe Haven Redesign Update?
    - A number of foster parents are transferring over
    - There is a detailed plan to ensure a smooth transition of the youth
    - NCCF has started the process of interviewing for social workers
    - Letters of intent will be given so SWs will stay on at their other agencies until January

- The contract with NCCF was approved last Tuesday by the City Council.
- There was a lot of attention from the council on this issue, and many were present at the hearing to make sure there were contingency plans in place to ensure the transition happens with the least disruption to children and families.
- Questions- What is the specialized services with Family Matters? They will focus on family preservation services, locating relatives early on, intensive work with all relatives, and they will also do the positive parenting approach. They will work with birth and foster families together. They will support NCCF.
- The recommendation was made that someone from NCCF comes to one of our meetings. If we can reach out to them now we can get them on the calendar for the March meeting.
- CFSA can provide an update in January 2018.
- CFSA Director Brenda Donald joined the meeting and provided the following updates on *Temporary Safe Haven Redesign*:
  - A one page document was shared that discusses the transition planning- *Temporary Safe Haven Redesign: Improving Foster Care Outcomes*
  - National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) selected as the Maryland partner
  - Families matters subcontractor to focus on foster parent, foster parent and kinship support
  - NCCF has been around a long time and is considered to be a strong performer. They have invested lot in training, innovation and best practices
  - Sheryl Brissett Chapman has built a solid organization
  - Between NCCF and Family Matters, they have about 1/3 of CFSA children placed in Maryland
  - People have been very concerned about going from 7 providers to one and what that would mean for kids
  - Started with transition planning at the same time the procurement process started
  - The last transition that people hold in their memory is when we stopped doing business with Foundations and Kids peace; this was very messy for a lot of reasons, and a lot of children had placements disrupted and CFSA was scrambling for homes as many foster parents did not come forward
  - We believed strongly this time thigs would be different for a lot of reasons we could control and environmentally things were different.
  - We started thinking about this and planning really early to include representatives from the foster parent association, Children’s Law Center, Council for Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy
  - Over the past month we have been meeting with all other agencies, foster parents and their staff
  - The ideal scenario is that the foster family and social worker all transition so the kid doesn’t know anything different
  - CFSA and NCCF go out to the providers together to discuss what this is all about and the process for transferring the license
  - CFSA reached out to the state of Maryland early on to get them to agree to streamline their licensing process
  - We have mobile fingerprinting available
  - Dr. Chapman is there with her team to discus NCCF and their values
  - The contract was approved by the Council last week and goes into effect October 1, 2017.
  - The official partnership starts January 1, 2017.
  - We have the next few months to complete all of the paperwork.

- We have 57 DC based foster homes from Lutheran, NCCF and PSI
- There have been several town hall meetings to say we want you to come over to DC. All DC homes will be managed by CFSA
- Of those 45 said yes, about 80 children, 12 said no- 7 are closing for permanency, the other 5 have no children in them and are saying they are at the end of their tenure as foster parents and are going to close out
- 100% of kids in DC based homes will not experience disruptions
- 240 foster homes licensed by all providers – numbers change everyday
- Foster parents were asked to sign letters of intent
- Of the 240 we received 184 letters of intent, 155 said absolutely yes, 57 require individual follow-up- maybes or were not at meeting, only 2 no's to date- hopefully we can convince them
- There are a lot of questions and reservations that are addressed with families.
- There is also a little bit of vetting and vetting out of foster parents- maybe it is time to make changes
- At next meeting we can do reports based on the numbers we have available
- People are excited
- The front page of handout walks through areas CFSA will focus on the improve foster care outcomes
- We have consultants looking at the high needs kids and we are looking at all of our group homes
- We are under the national average with the number of kids placed there, but CFSA is not happy with the quality of the group homes and will look at quality expectations
- We do our own version of placement matching but there are tools to help figure out the best placements- hope to have something in place when we bring NCCF on in January and will do a joint placement decision.
- We will make placements based on the best available placement for the child- kin first and then DC
- Foster parent support will be used to step up game in support, teaming, and resources
- Questions, comments?
- Fear of unknown with not knowing who would be awarded. Continue to communicate through the transition.
- MACCAN takes info back to its constituents
- NCCF is very committed and excited about making the system a whole different system
- We are knocking down LaShawn measures- it's a great team with great partners
- WRAP UP- MACCAN Chair Satira Streeter
  - The calendar for next year is included with your handouts. It was also emailed.
  - CFSA Annual Public Report- we will try to get CFSA here for the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to give overview of what happened this year and what we are expected to comment on
  - MACCAN consolidates comments into a letter
  - We can probably highlight concerns now
  - We will ask that CFSA provide outline to the committee two weeks ahead of the meeting- Will send out the report from last year for new members.
  - Still distributing cards for Think before you spank campaign- some cards left- please see Dr. Streeter
  - It was invigorating to have a campaign to move behind-Do we want to rest on our laurels and take this as a down year or do we want to pick up another campaign?
  - Dr. Streeter spoke to Stacy Joy Graham about what we could do around sexual abuse

- Ms. Donald talked last time about that she would like the committee to take up the whole marijuana piece, as there have been a couple of infant deaths.
- Co-sleeping while using marijuana- the actual negative behavior is bed sharing where the baby is actually in the bed. Co-sleeping is a good thing; it is like having a baby next to the bed in a bassinet.
- There were cases where mother and the father were using marijuana and they woke up and the baby was dead.
- The problem is substance abuse in general, but Brenda Donald had shared at a previous meeting that there has been a spike in relation to marijuana use and bed sharing. Most people don't see marijuana use as a major problem and may liken it to alcohol use. We can potentially consider this as a next awareness campaign.
- It is a big deal- adding to that Brenda Donald said she had not seen anything with heroin overdoses, but I disagree with this as I have seen it on my calendar. Cases are coming in. It is out there in DC.
- It tends to be older parents- can DBH give up data? No APRA- APRA is DBH
- Drugs are extremely regional- it is about access- it would be good to have the official information to inform out campaign
- Get DBH to come to meeting- presentation on current substance us in DC – stats, specifics on children, infants and families and the impact- how can we get the data about families in foster care
- President Obama signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act into law in 2016 which primarily focuses on the problem of opioid addiction. Child welfare agencies have been given direction from ACF on how to work with substance exposed infants and their families.
- CFSA is now screening in all reports of infants born with substances in their system. Medical providers are required by law to report these infants to the CFSA hotline. Any child with a report called in with positive tox or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder will be assigned to a social worker for them to go out and make an assessment. CFSA will lay eyes on all of these kids. CFSA will work very closely with impacted caregiver, family and infant.
- The hotline is the same- there is only one hotline. CFSA will also track what substances people are using and who is using what.
- A lot of people won't report marijuana use if you ask if they are using drugs- you have to ask specifically about marijuana. Not all people consider marijuana a drug
- Data from DBH and CFSA will be helpful
- They did talk about opioid deaths at the council hearing as DC is slowly starting to catch the wave- an issue that came up before the council is the facts that not all moms are screened- so who is screened and who is not
- Mandatory testing is not required- there is not consistent screening- there is worry about discrimination in who is being screened. We want to protect the kids, but certain populations are being screened in ways that others are not.
- Council is very concerned about this and it will be an issue that comes up again
- You can watch the hearing at the council website
- DBH- what campaigns are they actually doing? What kind of word is already getting out? Is there something we can connect to fro child abuse prevention month.
- DBH marketing is geared toward older population/50+ population- or teens with synthetic marijuana
- Can we do both at December meeting? APR overview, Drug overview – we also want to hear from Brenda Donald as an update.
- Dr. Cheryl Boyce will continue to invite Brenda Donald

- The baby box bill was also introduced- came out of Finland- give box to serve as bassinet to discourage co-sleeping- mixed reviews- there is no evidence
- Finland has the lowest infant mortality rate in the world- but it is not just because of the baby box- there are many other factors
- There is a specific provision to give all pregnant and parenting foster teens a baby box- CFSA already provides a pack and play which seems a lot better.
- The challenge is getting them to use them- MACAAN should keep this on radar screen- council will probably push this forward since it is so popular
- The baby box is still expensive and controversial. The American Academy of Pediatrics has not approved this. There is no evidence backing this. Public Health interventions are hard to prove anyway. Dr. Boyce will see what she can find.
- Enthusiasm from the council is high. It's tangible and it is election season.
- Pack and play is stronger and more durable.
- CFSA currently provides pack and play for a lot of families

6. Opportunity for Public Comment

- No comments

7. Adjournment

- See everyone on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

8. Next Meeting December 5, 2017, 10:00-12:00 pm @ CFSA, room 2203-A

Questions/Comments? Please contact Roni Seabrook at (202) 724-7076 or roni.seabrook@dc.gov.