

Follow up to Retreat Meeting
August 24, 2009
Summary

Present: Moira Weir, Lora Wolfe, Colleen Gerwe, HCJFS; Susan Ballard, St. Joseph Orphanage; Mary Reed, Deborah Miller, Ericka Bass, CAA; Jean Sepate, Terri Betts, Bob Mecum, Anglea King, Deb Bennett, Mark Kroner, Sharon Kinialocts, Patty Lovaglio, Anne Newsome, LYS; Jim Mason, Beech Acres; Lawrence Williams, Amelia Orr, Josh Arnold, Rob Pleiman, Talbert House; Lynn Nettles, Families Forward; Marni Blanken, Public Library of Cincinnati; Kay Brogle, Healthy Moms and Babes; Heidi Malott; CCHMC Mayerson; Cricket Meehan, Miami University; Deb Robison, Joan Pack-Rowe, Bob Myers, FCF; Linda Smetz-Ullrid, St. Aloysius; Judy Van Ginkel, Margaret Clark, Every Child Succeeds; Cheryl Phipps, Kim Hauck, Pheetta Wilkinson, Alice Pavey, Board of MR/DD; Nellie McFinley, Bond Hill; Marcy Robbe, Mike Robinson, Elizabeth Williams, The Children's Home; Shana Trent, John Francis, Centerpoint, Kristin Shrimplin, YWCA Domestic Violence Prevention; Pamela Bowers, Central Clinic; Kate Merrilees, YCI, Central Clinic; Mary Ronan, CPS; Glenna Edwards, Live It Like You Mean It; Sallie Westheimer, 4C for Children; Lisa Dodd, Family Service; Todd Portune, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, President, FCF; Patty Eber, FCF

Todd Portune opened the meeting and began by reminding everyone that the overall purpose of the FCF retreat we had this past spring was to look at ways we could collaboratively work together to continue to provide much needed services to vulnerable families during this harrowing budget situation we are in.

Following the retreat, the FCF Executive Committee examined the recommendations of the small groups to select which priority to focus our efforts on first as we regrettably cannot tackle all of the worthwhile issues raised at the retreat at once.

Although all of the gaps that are likely to occur because of the budget shortfall are without question serious, it was the feeling of the Executive Committee Retreat subcommittee that those challenges faced by Children's Services are the most critical due to the severe budget cuts that have already occurred and that keep coming their way. Therefore, we have elected to focus our first line of efforts in that arena.

Moira Weir, director of JFS, is committed to implementing the Family in Crisis model of serving at risk children and families. This is an evidence-based model that has shown proven results in a cost effective manner. Because of the current budget crisis, however, this is not a model that can be undertaken by Children's Services alone. The Family in Crisis Model is described in the outline sent to everyone prior to today's meeting, as are the skill sets that are needed to provide this model. They are also on the FCF website.

Moira Weir and her staff gave an overview of the Families in Crisis model. Moira explained that Children's Services would like to implement the Families in Crisis model with it is at risk families but does not have the manpower to do this alone. This meeting today is being held to determine how we as a professional community could help to implement this model in Hamilton County, given that there is no additional funding for any providers. One of the questions raised is how can we leverage all of our funds and utilize resources of FCF agencies to meet this need?

After some discussion and brainstorming, the following principles were agreed upon:

- Targeted Population: Children active with Children's Services for whom removal is probably likely, with at least one child in family under 12 years of age. Will consider including children who have been removed but have been returned home.
- The size of the initial group of families will be about 50 families. The families will be selected by JFS.
- Once the initial group is identified, we will see how many are already being served by one of more of the network agencies (see below).
- A subset of provider agencies will form a network of providers to work on this pilot. These agencies will:
 - Give priority to these clients
 - Provide case management function for each family
 - One agency will be identified as having the case management function; others supply services and supports
 - Case manager will recruit providers from network and the rest of the community
 - There will be one CS liaison/caseworker

Agencies who have volunteered to be part of the provider network are:

- LYS
- Talbert House
- Beech Acres
- Domestic Violence YMCA
- CAA
- St. Joseph's
- Healthy Moms and Babes
- Centerpoint Health
- St. Aloysius
- Family Service
- Children's Home

Patty will convene and facilitate a meeting/s with the provider network and JFS representatives to implement this pilot project. Note: The meeting for the provider reps listed above and JFS representatives will be held September 23 from 11:00 to 12:30 at MHRSB at 2350 Auburn.