

CWAC notes 8/19/11

Participants: Cheryl Williams, Nannette Bowler, Dorothy Hollahan, Cathy Pemberton, Emily Gambill, Christie Marra, Mary Dunne Stewart, Rita Katzman, Charlotte McNulty, Kathy McElroy, Virginia Powell, Suzanne Fountain, JoAnn Wilson-Harfst, Denise Gallop, Melanie Galloway, Denise Dickerson, William Shakleford, Matt Wade, Therese Wolf, Jack Ledden, and B J Zarris.

Jack Ledden reviewed the agenda and led the introductions. He then explained he would not be sharing the work of the **Family Strengthening** subcommittee for data management. They reported the draft outcome measures to the steering committee but need to complete more work – should be ready to report next month.

Rita Katzman reported on the progress of training **to incorporate SDM in CPS**. There have been 46 two-day training sessions with over 900 trainees. VDSS is grateful to 17 local supervisors who co-trained with state staff. One day on-call sessions are being trained in July and August. On 8/23 Rita will meet with Regional Consultants to debrief, discuss FAQs and get them ready for posting, and plan make up training sessions. Focus now will be on supporting supervisors to imbed best practice with use of SDM tools. An OASIS problem has caused a delay in many workers being able to use the tools as they were trained. Discussion of this issue noted that DFS is trying to get the issue resolved and recognizes JoAnn's comment that worker's will not maintain enthusiasm if this cannot be fixed quickly.

There were questions for Rita about the time SDM takes, according to the Hornby-Zellar study; about the correlation of SDM use to appeals; and about impact on case opening workload. Rita also gave a summary of discussion from the **guide on child safety** discussed at the JD&R court judges' conference the previous week. A copy of that guide is going to all local directors.

Dorothy Hollahan gave the group an update on **Quality Service Reviews (QSR)**. Four have been completed: Chesterfield, Richmond city, Roanoke City, and Norfolk. The Fall schedule is group some smaller agencies and going to both Northern and Western regions. Dorothy noted that the review process is constantly being fine tuned as is the System Improvement Plan process. Common themes across the state are being identified and will be reported annually. The QSR team is recruiting reviewers and materials were disseminated regarding the training provided to reviewers – goal is to have at least one person from most local departments.

Therese Wolf reported on how the **Adoption Contracts** have changed for this year with a focus on completing adoptions on children identified as waiting – beginning to move toward pay for performance. Therese also spoke briefly about the proposal currently being explored to provide a major faith-based event to **recruit adoptive families** for kids in foster care. It will use a model that was successful in Colorado and will probably occur in April 2012 in Richmond and/or Hampton Roads area – more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Finally, Matt Wade shared the **Data Entry Cohort Study** results through a PowerPoint presentation.

Next Meeting is October 21st.