

## **Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group Meeting Minutes – 12.14.2017**

The fourth meeting of the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group (SSWG) was hosted online by the University of North Carolina School of Government (UNC SOG) on December 14, 2017.

### **Working Group Members Attending Remotely**

Sen. Tamara Barringer, co-chair

Rep. Sarah Stevens, co-chair

Sen. Joyce Krawiec

Susan Perry-Manning, Deputy Secretary for Human Services, DHHS

Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services, DHHS

Hon. Robert Stiehl, Chief District Court Judge, Cumberland County

Hon. Kevin Austin, Commissioner, Yadkin County

Hon. Brenda Howerton, Commissioner, Durham County

Hon. Page Lemel, Commissioner, Transylvania County

Chris Dobbins, Consolidated Human Services Director, Gaston County

Glenn Osborne, Social Services Director, Wilson County

Susan Osborne, Social Services Director, Alamance County

Lisa Cauley, Chief, Child Welfare Section of the Division of Social Services, DHHS

Sen. Kathy Harrington

### **Working Group Members Not in Attendance**

Hon. Bob Woodard, Commissioner Dare County

Rep. Jonathan Jordan

Rep. David Lewis

Angie Stephenson, Social Services Attorney, Orange and Chatham counties

### **Convene**

- A. Wall
- Welcome Remarks by SSWG Co-Chairs:
  - Co-chair Sen. Barringer welcomed all SSWG members and SOG staff and briefly introduced guest speaker Sen. A.J. Griffin of Oklahoma, the first speaker on the agenda.
- A. Wall reviewed the meeting agenda and informed SSWG members that the timing of the agenda items might have to be altered depending on guest speaker availability.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Susan Perry-Manning moved to approve minutes.
- Commissioner Kevin Austin seconded the motion.
- Minutes from the 11.28.17 SSWG meeting were approved.

### **Child Welfare Reform in Oklahoma**

- Sen. A.J. Griffin was not available to present at the time specified on the agenda. A. Wall requested that S. DePasquale proceed with her presentation on North Carolina's Child Fatality Prevention System.

### **North Carolina's Child Fatality Prevention System**

- Presentation on North Carolina's Child Fatality Prevention System by Sara DePasquale of the UNC School of Government.
- Presentation accompanied by PowerPoint; slides can be found at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/resources/microsites/social-services/materials>.
- Kella Hatcher, Executive Director of the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, was available during the presentation to provide additional information and respond to questions.
- Presentation Outline:
  - Provide an overview of the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention System
    - Intent
    - Purpose
    - Structure
  - Discussion of the relationship between the North Carolina Fatality Prevention System and the SSWG charge
    - Current relationship between state and local entities involved in child fatality review and prevention
    - How would a system of regional supervision fit in to the current structure?
- Questions/Comments:
  - SSWG members and SOG staff were given time to ask questions/make comments following the end of the presentation.
  - Judge Stiehl provided additional information regarding statutes relevant to North Carolina's Child Fatality Review System to assist SSWG members who are interested in following-up on presentation details.
    - A list of these statutes can be found at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/resources/microsites/social-services/materials>.
  - SSWG co-chair Sen. Barringer suggested tabling the present conversation for future consideration when other potential reform conflicts/overlaps in services will be discussed.

### **Child Welfare Reform in Oklahoma**

- Sen. Barringer welcomed Sen. Griffin of Oklahoma to the online meeting and provided SSWG members with a brief introduction to Sen. Griffin's work.
- Presentation Outline:
  - Brief overview of Oklahoma's Division of Social Services
  - Review of reform strategies being implemented statewide
    - Increase in the number of front-line, direct service providers;

- Decrease in social worker caseload size;
  - “Wrap-around Teams” that consist of family members, foster parents, social workers, law enforcement, advocates, counselors, representatives from the legal system, etc. coming together to develop long-term solutions.
  - Child fatality reviews are being used by the legislature, courts, and social welfare agencies to inform and support future reform strategies.
- Question/Comments:
  - SSWG members and SOG staff were given time to ask questions/make comments following the end of the presentation.
  - Question: Can you elaborate on Oklahoma’s experience with the recent suit brought against them?
    - The resources that have come out of that experience have been extremely beneficial. However, having to comply with the decisions of outside entities/consultants can result in actions that are not the best fit for your state.
    - Internal reform can be more community-specific.
  - Question: We (North Carolina Legislature) have appropriated funds to hire an outside contractor similar to the one hired by Oklahoma. What were some of the positive outcomes of working with an outside contractor when implementing system reform?
    - Some of the reform strategies suggested by the outside contractor have been so beneficial that Oklahoma requested an extension of their services to address additional issues in other practice/service fields.
    - The outside consultants must really become familiar with your state and with local communities so that the recommendations being made can actually be implemented effectively.
  - Question: What were other reform strategies that you felt were especially effective/innovative, particularly when it came to changes in resource allocation?
    - Increases to reimbursement rates for foster families have increased the retention of foster families. Additional resources have also been allocated to the recruitment and support of new foster families.
    - Frontline caseworkers must be encouraged and enabled to make their own decisions and develop their own plans for each case. Catastrophic occurrences often involved a delay in the implementation of a caseworker’s case strategy.

### **Medicaid Reform**

- Presentation on Medicaid Reform by Dave Richard, North Carolina Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance.
- Presentation accompanied by PowerPoint; slides can be found at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/resources/microsites/social-services/materials>.
- Presentation Outline:

- Overview of the Medicaid Reform timeline
- Overview of the Medicaid Managed Care program design
- Strategies for supporting providers through system reform
- Physical and behavioral health integration strategies
- Promoting quality, value, and population health
- Strategies for addressing social detriments

### **Updates and Plans**

- A. Wall provided SSWG members with research updates:
  - Table of Supervisory Functions
  - Regional Supervision in Virginia
  - Licensing in North Carolina
  - Job Rotation
- A. Wall reviewed details of the next SSWG meeting:
  - Remote Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
  - In-Person Meeting – Tuesday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.