



**CHILD WELFARE TRANSFORMATION DESIGN COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY REPORT
JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2009**

BACKGROUND

2SHB 2106 passed the 2009 legislature and was signed into law by the Governor on May 18, 2009. This legislation created the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee whose responsibility it is to make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the use of performance-based contracts for the delivery of child welfare services and, in two demonstration sites, make recommendations regarding the transfer of child welfare responsibilities from the state Children’s Administration (CA) to private supervising agencies.

MEMBERS OF THE CHILD WELFARE TRANSFORMATION DESIGN COMMITTEE (CWTDC)

The membership of the CWTDC is prescribed in 2SHB 2106 and the following are the members of the CWTDC:

- Carleen Anderson, Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) appointee;
- Mary Armstrong, Performance Based Contracting Expert;
- Henry Cagey, IPAC appointee;
- Judge Leonard Costello, ret., Superior Court Judges Association appointee;
- Mark Courtney, Partners for Our Children representative;
- Susan Dreyfus, Interim appointee (in lieu of Assistant Secretary of Children’s Administration (CA));
- Nancy Foll, Private Agency representative;
- Darcey Hancock, Division of Licensed Resources, CA;
- Marian Harris, Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee representative;
- Steve Hassett, Attorney General’s designee;
- Carole Holland, Governor’s designee;
- Catherine Lanham, Foster Parent
- Jeanine Livingston, Washington Federation of State Employees representative;
- Brenda Lopez, Birth Parent;
- Charlotte McCullough, Performance Based Contracting Expert;
- Maureen McGrath, Private Agency representative;
- Mary Meinig, Director, Office of the Family and Children’s Ombudsman;
- Jerry Meninick, IPAC representative;
- Liz Mueller, IPAC representative;
- Ken Nichols, CA Regional Administrator;
- Sharon Osborne, Private Agency representative;
- Nancy Sutton, CA Regional Administrator;
- Gwendolyn Lawson Townsend, Private Agency representative; and
- Judge Chris Wickham, Superior Court Judges Association representative.

CWTDC MEETING - JUNE 2009

The first meeting of the CWTDC was held on June 30, 2009 in Olympia, Washington. (See attached Minutes and Agenda) There was a strong turnout by both CWTDC members and stakeholders. Rep. Ruth Kagi, prime sponsor of the legislation, addressed the CWTDC about the legislation and what the legislature envisioned when it passed. Partners for Our Children (POC), the organization jointly staffing the CWTDC with legislative staff, went through the list of statutorily required duties to be performed by the CWTDC. Each member was also presented with a timeline indicating each of the important dates outlined in the legislation. There was a discussion clarifying a number of items in the legislation. The Ground Rules were reviewed with the CWTDC members.

The legislation provides that the Assistant Secretary of CA is to be one of the co-chairs of the CWTDC but that the second co-chair is to be chosen by the CWTDC members. Sharon Osborne nominated Judge Costello as the second co-chair and his nomination was approved unanimously by the CWTDC.

The CWTDC discussed the formation and use of advisory committees. It was agreed that the CWTDC would participate in a conference call in August at which the advisory committees would be discussed in more detail.

CWTDC CONFERENCE CALL - AUGUST 2009

The CWTDC convened for a conference call on August 4, 2009. Prior to the meeting, the CWTDC received a draft memo outlining the suggested advisory committees to be formed and the responsibilities of those advisory committees. (See attached memo). The CWTDC agreed that the suggested advisory committees were appropriate and voted to approve them.

The four advisory committees are as follows:

- The Advisory Committee on Legal and Practice Issues;
- The Advisory Committee on Outcomes and Evaluation Issues;
- The Advisory Committee on Financial Issues; and
- The Advisory Committee on Selection of Demonstration Sites and Transition Issues.

CWTDC members were asked to submit their names for one or more advisory committees on which they would like to serve. The co-chairs of the CWTDC will select the co-chairs of the advisory committees.

CWTDC MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2009

The second meeting of the CWTDC was held on September 16 and 17, 2009. (See attached minutes and agenda). All CWTDC members attended the meeting and there was a strong turnout of stakeholders. The first day of the meeting was devoted to information sharing about the Washington child dependency system and the basics of performance-based contracting. The second day was spent discussing the timeline created by CA (see attached) and the specifics of the membership, ground rules and co-chairing of the advisory committees.

There was a lot of discussion about the timeline put together by CA. The timeline was developed in conjunction with state contracting experts at DSHS. According to CA, the state contracting rules dictated the timeline.

After much discussion, the CWTDC agreed to provide the following comments as their initial reactions to the proposed timeline: 1) there seemed to be insufficient time for community involvement on the front end of the timeline for both the transition to performance-based contracting and the site selection identification process; 2) based upon the experiences of other states, there appears to be insufficient time on the back end of the schedule for the transition to the demonstration pilots; and 3) the CWTDC was surprised by the 18-month period in the timeline set aside for the contracting process. The CWTDC encouraged Secretary Dreyfus to explore ways to reduce that length of time (several ideas were suggested). These issues are being reviewed by the appropriate advisory committees who will present their recommendations to the full CWTDC at the December quarterly meeting so the CWTDC can decide whether to recommend that the dates specified in the legislation should be changed.

The advisory committee structure and membership was confirmed. The co-chairs of the advisory committees are as follows:

Advisory Committee on Legal and Practice Issues

- Liz Mueller
- Judge Chris Wickham

Advisory Committee on Outcomes and Evaluation Issues

- Marian Harris
- Ken Nichols

Advisory Committee on Financial Issues

- Carole Holland
- Sharon Osborne

Advisory Committee on Selection of Demonstration Sites and Transition Issues

- Jeanine Livingston
- Nancy Sutton

A meeting of the co-chairs of the advisory committees occurred directly following the adjournment of the CWTDC on September 17, 2009. Each advisory committee has a planning meeting scheduled as of the date of this report and the Advisory Committee on Selection of Demonstration Sites and Transition Issues has four meetings scheduled and the Advisory Committee on Outcomes and Evaluation Issues has its first meeting scheduled.

Most advisory committees plan to meet at least once a month between quarterly meetings of the CWTDC. The advisory committees must report to the full CWTDC at its meeting on the work it has undertaken since the previous CWTDC meeting.

The advisory committee ground rules were also discussed and amended and will be adopted by the CWTDC at the next quarterly meeting. (See attached ground rules)

The next quarterly meeting of the CWTDC will be held on December 14th and 15th, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac.