

CA/WACF CPA Division Quarterly Meeting

September 24, 2013

Present: Jennifer Strus, Randy Hart, Mark Fullington, Jeff Judy, Linda Thomas, Jeff Clare, Greg Dootson, Josh Hinman, Greg May, Maureen McGrath

Agenda:

1. Update on increasing qualifications for visit supervision services:
Update-no expectations that contract changes will be implemented by July 2013. Still in progress as to what expectations are going to be required. Focus on increasing training supports so that safety issues can be identified by the visitation supervisor.
2. Discussion about allowing more time for CPA's to review contracts before signature.
 - a. Sending contracts at the last minute is not the way CA "wants to do business". Per Randy, Make a commitment to give more time for review, 60 days to review as the goal. Randy will connect with the contracts staff to inform of timeframe and expectations. Even if CA can't execute the contract, they could send to agencies with time for review during that time period.
 - b. Another issue, agency hiring up for a large contract knowing there is an objection clause in the contract, successful bidder may be challenged through their hiring has already started to meet contract deadlines. This happens rarely, may not be much CA can do with this contract concern but Randy will check.
3. Discussion about placement crisis and how CPA's can help.
 - a. On-going conversation: limped along with 6000 foster homes for a long period of time, now down to 5100 total foster homes. Reduction in foster homes was not a critical issue until more recently when the amount of children entering care has increased, not making good matches for children/youth entering foster care. Refer to Randy's email to staff dated 7-2-13. Email supports that CPA placements will be used as long as they are safe and meet the need of the children being placed. Once we have a home licensed, are we moving children to permanency or leaving them long term in the beds we have? 9-1-13, hiring staff to move children to permanency.
 - b. Recruitment and Retention: Areas that did not experience placement shortages previous are not experiencing shortages, i.e. old Region 6/Region 5. R and R contractor did not have enough emphasis on local recruitment....CA will put out multiple contracts for local recruitment in communities will implement this by spring 2014. Change will be implementation of multiple/regional contracts. Retention: Homes are leaving because of licensing at the front end; data tells us that we lose a lot of homes between

recruitment and final licensing. DLR has a pretty low founded rate, don't have confidence in the licensing exit surveys. Suggestion-small workgroup for DLR investigations will be convened and be moved forward. If there are still concerns about CPA not being fully used for placements in Region 1, CPA's should provide some specific information to Randy so he can follow up.

- c. DLR and placement- DLR should be part of the solution to placement. If there are any specific issues where partnership is not happening bring those issues forward so we can discuss and resolve them. Look at DLR on-call resource to staff safety issues for placements. Look at streamlining process when foster licenses are transferring between state/CPA or between CPA's. Transferring the foster home licenses in good standing without having to re do the entire home study and licensing packet.
4. CA's plan to utilize short-term crisis placement resources:
 5. FP Training Reform- concerns that families are licensed but have not completed the parenting plus training. WACF CPA's did an informal survey of the percentage of foster homes that have NOT completed the Parenting Plus requirement. Of almost 500 homes 80% have NOT completed PP. Randy: All training has to now go to the training alliance at UW. There are concerns that families would not re-license because of having to take parenting plus. Asking for a reprieve on this specific training requirement until the competency committee finishes their work and updates the training. Randy will get back to us.
 6. CPA Vendor Rates-
 - a. Over the past 5 years, several rate cuts...for CPA's 8.6% rate reduction as well as significant cuts to visit supervision reimbursements . Contract changes have increased expenses though rates continue to be reduced. Vendor rate increase requires a decision package to the legislature. Recommendation that we go through our leg partners to get the issue out there. Temporary rate decreases will become permanent if updated budget is submitted with lower rates.
 - b. Discussed Dale Jarvis study, CPA's underfunded for the work they do.
 7. CA and WACF-
 - a. Inclusion of BRS and in-home service providers in the meetings with CA leadership. There are 3 divisions within WACF and we want to bring them all to the table. Recommendation to have an association meeting that discusses issues from all 3 divisions. One regular meeting that expands the focus to all divisions. Change meeting to the CA/WACF provider meeting.
 8. Changes that are coming- Fingerprint checks will not be required twice if fingerprints have been completed within a year prior to the adoption. DOH background checks for FPS/IY contracts. Going to have more conversations about this, expediting process but ensuring capable people are going to be hired in positions.

