

WACF: Meeting Notes, January 8, 2015

Agency Introductions: Linda Thomas/CCS, Anna Thompson/YFC, Alison Palmer/YFC, Carol Mikkelsen/Amara, Samantha Garcia/ PCA, Susan Brooks/Lutheran Community Services, Cindy Steele/CCS, Kristen Zinsky/CCS, Angela Youtsey/West Sound YFC, Paulette Caswell/Bethany Christian Services

Parent/Child Visitation

For agencies with both contracts (CPA Contract and Visitation Contract) the Visitation contract must do the 2 hour parent orientation. The CPA contract is referred to as a sibling visit requirements and not spelled out as a service for visits without siblings.

CPA's should be able to bill that 2 hour session as a service. CA social workers are not providing this screening, lack of consistency for parents with visits.

Is the 2 hour orientation best practice? And then, why is this process not used universally?

Inconsistent service: (Visit contract, CPA contract, CA social worker supervised visits) The process is just not consistent. *Can we ask for clarification on the best practice and then ask for that to be used universally?*

Can we ask for extra time on that first visit to ensure children/families get their entire visit time with their children due to the time spent on the orientation/visit planning?

Visitation Supervision Qualifications:

Make page 58 look like page 70, in terms of documented experience and not paid experience.

On Page 17, there is a link to additional information but the link is the visit services fee page and needed info is not there.

Discussion of CPA Chair:

Discussion about the need for a new CPA Chair for July 1, 2015. Members were asked to consider becoming the next CPA Chair.

DLR Discussion

Comments on the restructure of DLR. Kitsap relationships are feeling stronger. Communication feels strong with Pam and Soon (sp?).

Background Checks: no feedback from DLR at all regarding waiver issues. Some agencies are getting their own information, WATCH and FBI checks. *Follow up: where are we on the consistent language in*

licensing home stating (we were going to request legal language from an attorney) stating that we are making the recommendation based on available information. CM: DEL language supporting "portable" background checks for teachers....WAC is different, can DSHS do the same?

*Flu Shot for foster parents with Children under 2: Meri Waterhouse posted a memo with those requirements on the Region 3 facebook page. Each region is giving different expectations for the specific compliance timeframe. Social work and agency staff are not required but foster parents are. This requirement was not in the draft but included now in the WAC. *Where is the most effective place to send families if they have concerns about this process?* Concerns that this will impact already very limited resources for children needing placement under 2. *Is there any admin process in place to provide review...for persons with medical issues, etc, can we ask for that?**

Families can contact FPAWS. Can Jeff contact Darcy for a contact or contact the constituent relationships or a state legislator? Can we get something in writing from HQ that outlines timeline for implementation and specific exemptions? Another complication is modifying licenses. There are too many for quick implementation of this requirement.

Prudent Parenting Issues: Visitation and prudent parenting. Families don't necessarily have to notify the social worker when they are out of town. Clarification: can you use this for social activities for the parents, not just the child in foster care? What is the foster parents liability under prudent parenting if something happens in the home the child is visiting (can a foster parent give warning for every potential safety risk)?

Legislative issues we want to pursue:

Flu shot in WAC's, background check reform, rates restoration.

Other Agenda Items:

4-E adoption changes: any conversation with the state of Wa? New changes that 4-E funds must be allotted to support for families who adopt. How is the state responding to this? Request that the CPA group ask for information, will it divert funding from CPA's, how can it be used to support our work with families? ASK: what is the state's plan for these dollars and who is the point person for process development?

Discussion about birth/foster family engagement:

Carol asked agencies for strategies to support birth and foster parent engagement. Carol stated that some agencies are using the ice breaker meetings, agencies talked about skyping, doc appts, using the term "co parenting", communicating goal of reunification etc. using CCT as the starting point for this conversation and support foster parents to have a role in the visits whenever possible.