

**Maine's Foster Care Committee – October Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 10, 2019 - 4:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Notes**

Present in person: Adrienne, Jean Youde, Dee Kerry. Present on phone: Mary Tedesco Scheck, Jan Pelletier, Amy Belisle, Bobbi Johnson, Andrea Tracy, Lenore C, Steve Meister

- Welcome and Introductions
- Mission and Priorities of Committee

Mission: The mission of the Foster Care Committee is to improve the health and medical care of children in foster care in Maine.

Priorities:

1. Collaborate with OCFS to ensure that services for children align with recommendations and guidelines of AAP and Child Welfare League of America
2. Collaborate with OCFS to improve the communication between state medical providers and staff of OCFS in order to better serve children's medical needs
3. Provide education to medical providers, foster parents, and OCFS staff, about the health care needs of children in foster care
4. Provide a platform for communication between programs offering Comprehensive Health Assessment with goal of improving system of statewide standards

Dr. Landry is invited to our November meeting. Our recommendations from meetings last year all align with Child Welfare recommendations and AAP recommendations state. Our intern had created a timeline for children in care. It was sent out with the notes. The flow of care is important and we can talk with Dr. Landry about this.

Be sure to look at the Foster Care Committee google drive – there will be updated information, reports and documents located in one spot.

**Website Child Welfare Advisory Panel – MCWAP.** There is now a workgroup to update this website and the child health plan. <https://www.mainechildwelfareadvisorypanel.com/>

**Review objectives from grant work** We have accomplished many of the original grant deliverables. We need to update our own website. We will continue to work with OCFS on best ways to collaborate about care, ongoing care, screening and assessment, and partner to implement LD 1378

- **Updates from DHHS- Bobbi** – 2187 children currently in foster care in Maine, which is an increase, and Bobbi agrees that systems are overwhelmed. Taxes child welfare system along with providers of medical and behavioral health and the courts. Need to keep building the system of care across Maine. Need to help with reunification services as well in the community. Child welfare and Children Behavioral Health are identifying and prioritizing recommendations – 50 and 170 – way too many. Have condensed this down to concentrate on safety and well being. Making sure that staffing is adequate and work plans are in place.
  - District 1-3 -will be establishing a better process for obtaining Mainecare claims.
  - District 6 and 7 requested updated lists to cross reference with referrals
  - Bobbi stated that District 8 are also sending kids to the Key clinic in Bangor.

Jean Youde asked if she can also get list of children coming into care in her districts

Question to Bobbi: Is someone from OCFS tracking the children coming into care to ensure everyone gets seen for CHA? Bobbi says she doesn't think it is being tracked. If kids get referred from one region to another this especially would be really helpful.

Also asked if it is being tracked whether kids get the 10 day visit? They can pull reports but Bobbi needs to confirm whether they are doing that.

Bobbi reported that at the end of September Dr. Landry presented to government oversight committee. Gave report about legislation, priorities, general update about structure, talked about kids who were in hotels, etc.

OCFS has created an online Dashboard - <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/> Hopes of sharing strengths and challenges and partnering with community to get better results.

LD 1821 workload study report – working with PCG and national organizations to develop a tool to look at case load and workload of caseworkers. Trying to put time weights to better understand how staff are coping and making sure families are getting the best service.

- **Update from Amy Belisle**  
Commissioner has made it a department wide initiative about safe sleep. Looking at infant mortality rate – up to 7/1000 in Maine. Promote ABC and now Drug Free <https://safesleepforme.org/>

Article in BDN cited:

<https://bangordailynews.com/2019/10/10/news/bangor/what-we-know-and-dont-know-about-how-maines-opioid-crisis-has-affected-kids/>

OCFS working on hiring a medical director to help oversee these initiatives. Important to provide oversight child care work, family services and foster care.

Maine Prevention Store by the Maine CDC – safe sleep materials.

<https://www.maine-preventionstore.com/>

New Sesame Street character, Karli is a foster child and her parents have addiction disorder. <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/foster-care/>  
<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/parental-addiction/>

#### Families First Act

AAP released materials to aid states in implementation:

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/child-welfare/family-first/implementing-the-family-first-prevention-services-act/>

OCFS Convened meeting on 9/26/19 Maine has deferred implementation to start October 2020. Maine well positioned as a lot of work already done, Maine has many programs accredited already. OCFS plans to hire a program manager for the Family First initiative.

- Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bDoQGrhD1-MmheVzoTYb15RWtYEyIxwd?usp=sharing>

- Next meetings-

- November 14, 2019- Dr. Todd Landry, Director of OCFS, will be attending in Manchester at AAP office- please plan to join the meeting in person, if possible
- December 12, 2019- cancelled **-no meeting** in December
- January 9, 2020