

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

September 12, 2009

MINUTES

Present:	Maricopa	Apache	Greenlee	Santa Cruz
	Bruce Brannan Barbara Hanigsberg	Peggy Kimball	<i>Vacant Position</i>	
	Connie Koch Carole Murphy Linda Smith	Cochise	La Paz	Yavapai
		Patricia Schloss	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Karen Dansby Doris Haak
	Pima		Mohave	
	Paul Hanson Jen Stephens-Cortum Warren Trask	Coconino	Carol Bigos-Wheeler	Yuma
		Gila	Navajo	Thelma Lundy
		Jo Foti	Thelma Gray	At-Large
		Graham	Pinal	Colette Chapman John Deneka Joe Jacober Beth Rosenberg Pat Trebesch
			Julie Bierbaum	

Staff: Sandy Guizzetti, Caroline Lantt-Owens, Linda Bednarek, Charles Gray, Bruce Johnson, Carolyn Smith, Carissa Moore, Esma Murrieta and Cathy Metrick

Local Board Members: Chaunci Aeed, Sally Clark, John Fry, Anne Johnson, Roger Pongratz, Pat Kush Schultz, Howard Weiske

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2009 MEETING. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION PASSED. (0902)

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

The following introductions were made: Carol Bigos-Wheeler new state board member from Mohave; Esma Murrieta, staff member from Tucson; Howard Weiske, Mohave County; Chanci Aeed, Sally Clark, John Fry, Anne Johnson, Roger Pongratz, Pat Kush Schultz, Maricopa County board members.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Executive Committee:

Joe Jacober delivered the following report:

The Executive Committee approved leaves of absence for Julie Bierbaum, Pinal 02; Lenore Barrientos, Maricopa 45; and, Ted Jaros, Maricopa 16. Attendance waivers were approved for Sharon Wixon, Maricopa 46; and Ellen Hopson-White, Maricopa 02.

Caroline delivered an update on the Legislative Workgroup that has been meeting over the summer. Representative David Bradley initiated this workgroup. They have discussed possible improvements and ways to increase public awareness about the FCRB.

The Executive Committee will meet again on December 5 telephonically.

B. Advocacy Committee:

Bruce Brannan made the following report:

The group reviewed a legislative summary prepared by Linda Bednarek. The bills that were reviewed, while important, would not impact the FCRB in a strong way. Bruce stated that the Foster Children Bill of Rights is a worthwhile piece of information and should be provided to foster children.

Bruce updated the board on the Advocacy Committee's five goals.

1. ***Utilize the Finding 10 data to identify areas of need and disseminate information to stakeholders.*** This finding should be finalized and presented to the state board in December for approval.
2. ***Develop a quarterly communication tool to share issues, statistics and training information with updates on committee progress.*** This should be in place by November. They plan to use the website, send advocacy notices in emails, and include updated advocacy information every month on the cd that contains the board cases.
3. ***To develop and maintain personal relationships with the bench by regular meetings with judges.*** This goal will necessitate coordination in the larger counties. Bill Callahan will be responsible for this goal. This will be a difficult process, and Caroline and Bill with experience in the Maricopa court system have a better understanding of how to proceed.
4. ***Invite the Legislators.*** There will be further discussion at the March State Board Meeting. The intent is to invite legislators to the state board to observe how the FCRB functions.
5. ***Under guidelines developed to clearly define the difference between advocating as a citizen and as an FCRB member, identify one or two issues that the program has taken a position on, as well as compile for volunteers a broader listing of legislative bills that affect social welfare policy that can be advocated for as an individual.***
A six point guidelines document has been drafted that still needs some editing. After this, it will be distributed to the Advocacy Committee for their approval and then the document will be ready for state board review and approval.

The Advocacy Conference calls are held the second Thursday of the month beginning in October, and all are welcome to participate. Contact either Charles Gray in Phoenix or Linda Bednarek in Tucson for the number to call.

C. Outreach Committee:

Linda Smith delivered the following report:

The program decided to restructure the Outreach position duties at the staff level. The position has been decentralized to better serve both regions. Esma Murrieta will be responsible for outreach in the Tucson Office, and Charles Gray and Carolyn Smith will be responsible for the Phoenix Office.

Maricopa and Pima Counties are the primary focus for outreach activity. One Yuma County board has had a recent increase in vacancies. Maricopa County may need to open two new boards at the end of 2009.

A discussion was held about investigating social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter as outreach tools.

The Volunteer Exemplary Service Award will be given twice a year. The committee voted to present the award to Augie Perry of Prescott. He will be given the opportunity to come to Phoenix to receive the award in March, or a staff member will travel to Yavapai and make the presentation.

The committee is going to contact county licensing agencies to do interested party and recruitment outreach. Esma will look into OCLR for lists of licensing agencies. Committee members each took one application and will work to recruit one volunteer. Joe announced that anyone who would like an application to pass along, please contact Carolyn, but to be sure they receive the application for their region.

Recruitment will begin next month at the local board level. They will ask that members serve on Removal Review and recruit individuals to serve on the local boards.

Linda reviewed the State Board Goals assigned to the Outreach Committee.

1. ***Utilize the packets and website to post outreach materials.***
Status: Website is still under construction, so the committee will be using the packets for outreach efforts
2. ***Develop and implement an outreach program for Removal Review recruitment.***
Status: A draft presentation has been developed.
3. ***Outreach Committee volunteers will find ways to support FCRB staff in outreach efforts as follows:***
 - a. ***Identify organizations in their communities to be included in the diversity plan for future networking;***
 - b. ***Participate in one outreach activity or event; activities, events, organizations will be shared as they become available.***
Status: Pending.

D. Continuing Education Committee:

Barbara Hanigsberg delivered the following report:

Barbara stated that the committee has “tweaked” their goals.

1. ***Continue to evaluate and make website improvements.***

The website is still under construction.

The Technical Committee discussed ideas for tips for the board members use when working with their epackets. This is still in progress.

2. ***Identify and deliver a single training topic statewide.***

Barbara stated that the single training topic will deal with Psychological Evaluations. This training will possibly be done in conjunction with CASA.

Carissa stated that her group worked to decide how training information could be submitted on cd. They have identified a website with good training information and there is no charge. Board members would be able to read the information and submit the information to their program specialist for training credit. The plan is to create a folder on the packet cd. The folder will include the training information, the training credit requirements, and a summary of the DSM-IV Axes compiled by Karen Dansby. Hopefully this information will be provided in October or November. The training would be updated every month.

3. ***Evaluate the Prep Sheet for potential revisions.***

Colette and Barbara developed a letter regarding the prep sheet evaluation to be distributed to all board members. Board members will then meet during administrative business and discuss and compile their suggestions. The program specialist will then submit the final list of suggestions to their supervisor who will pass it on to Sandy Guizzetti. A subcommittee will review the suggestions to determine how best to revise the Prep Sheet.

There were two New Board Member Orientations held recently. One was held in Tucson and had 14 participants, the other NBMO was held in July in Phoenix with 18 participants. The next NBMO is scheduled in Phoenix on October 24. The orientation is now an intensive one-day session which simulates a review board day.

There were 209 attendees statewide for the IEP Trainings held this year. If your board wishes follow-up training, please contact Colette Chapman.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

The topic of paper reviews was tabled until Bill could address it at the March meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Beth Rosenberg informed the state board that on October 9 Children’s Action Alliance will honor Judge Brutinel. The luncheon and presentation will be held at the Hyatt Regency. Beth asked that the invitation go out to those board members in Yavapai County, as well as other appropriate staff and volunteers.

VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT/ DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Caroline delivered the following report:

Caroline agreed to meet with Bill and discuss additional data reports that may be of interest to the state board. They are particularly interested the number cases throughout the state. Currently there are 9,113 children under FCRB review; and there are 5,437 cases statewide. Judge Rubin, Pima County, stated recently that the number of petitions filed in Pima County is decreasing significantly. Maricopa County is seeing an increase in numbers.

All boards but four are receiving their packets on cd's. The majority of the volunteers like the new process; a few have expressed concern. Once all of the boards have been using the e-packet process, the staff will look at this process again to determine if there are any other changes necessary.

The FCRB Legislative Workgroup: Senator Bradley asked to meet with FCRB program volunteers and staff. He has an interest in trying to enhance the FCRB to make it more effective. He sees the program as a valuable resource to the state and to the child welfare agency. A group of 16 participated, including Representatives, Murphy, Barto and Senator Lopez, Beth Rosenberg, Pat Trebesch, Jakki Hillis, as well as a few FCRB volunteers and staff. They met over the summer and will meet once more in September to focus on increasing public awareness of the FCRB and ways to allow the FCRB to have a stronger voice in child welfare issues.

The group discussed the removal review process. With the Team Decision Making process (TDM) now in place, most of the time all of the parties have talked about and agreed about the removal prior to the removal review. A few legislators would like to observe the TDM process so they can learn more and be sure that an effective process is in place statewide before making a decision to introduce legislation to eliminate the removal review. Updates will be given as they happen.

The group also discussed "super boards." A group of volunteers would be selected to serve on a "super board" to discuss high profile cases; legislators would use the super boards to review trends in child welfare that are brought to their attention by constituents; a super board could be convened to review the recommendations that are developed by FCRB local boards to identify trends that local boards are seeing. This information can be passed onto stakeholders in the form of a report.

The group also developed ideas for the FCRB to raise public awareness and increase their outreach efforts. Bill and Caroline met with Ron Bellus who has a capitol cable TV show. Mr. Bellus has an interest in interviewing FCRB volunteers and doing a feature story on the program. Caroline and Bill will contact volunteers for interviews when the plans for the show are more concrete.

A bill has passed in the Legislature that expands the list of interested parties right to participate in review hearings and dependency proceedings. This list now includes foster parents or shelter care facility which cared for a child for at least ten days.

The Supreme Court met on August 31, 2009 to consider rules that were presented. The rules pertaining to 2008 legislation that impacted child welfare issues were adopted after going through the process and will be effective January 1, 2010. Another petition was filed for the legislation that was passed this year. It has been adopted on an emergency basis and the rules will go into effect. The comment period for these rules goes until May 2010 and the court will consider these rules at its meeting in August 2010.

A rule petition which required children to attend their hearings did not pass. It was not assigned to any committee to review; therefore, the rule petition is dead.

Caroline informed the group that we have no news on the budget. She will update everyone when information is available.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public respondents.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

ACTION ITEM:

Bill will look into paper review process and report to state board in March.