

Task Force on Health of Children in Foster Care

Meeting Agenda

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| **Date**: 10/9/14 | **Time**: 8:00-9:00am  | **Location(s**): Department of Services to Children, Youth & FamiliesConference Room 2011825 Faulkland Road, Wilmington, DE 19805 |
| **Facilitator: Cathy Zorc** |
| **Notes: Monica Pyewell** |
| **Invitees:** (X) Declined/Absent |  |
| Diane Abatemarco  | Vicky Kelly | Cindy Knapp(N) | Kelly Ensslin(X) |
| Jay Greenspan (X) | Kimberly Reinagel-Nietubicz | Cha-Tanya Lankford |  |
| Alisa Haushalter(X) | Heather Alford | Mary Lou Edgar(X) |  |
| Mary Kate Mouser | John Bates(X) | Carolyn Morgan(Y) |  |
| Pat Redmond | Sue Murray | Anne Pedrick |  |
| Amy Renwick | Dick Christopher(X) | Sarah Matt(X) |  |
| Krishna White | Margot Waltz(X) | Kitara Bingham(X) |  |
| Cathy Zorc | Leslie Newman | Janice Barlow(X) |  |
| **Agenda Item**  |  **Discussion / Decisions/ Assignments**  |
| ***How was this task force on health of children in foster care initiated?****Mary Kate Mouser*5 min | Jay Greenspan was testifying in Legislative Hall on nurse/family partnership when a question came up from Representative Melanie George Smith regarding the care of foster children. Early on the decision was made that more data was need and Representative Smith put money in the budget to support the work.Jay shared information on how different the national foster care system is from Delaware’s foster care system. There have been multiple hearings during the year to address issues and have made strides to stabilize the care of the children. |
| ***Who are the children in foster care?**** Overview of demographics of children in foster care.

*Vicky Kelly*10 min | Vicky gave hand out on Delaware Foster Care StatisticsCurrently 630 children in care; 20% over last 2 years.**Ages**:0-5 34%6-12 27%13-18 39% (parent/child conflict served 598 families)**Race and Ethnicity**:54% African American, 46% Caucasian90% Non-Hispanic, 10% Hispanic**Gender:**50% males and 50% females**Achieving Permanency Goals within 2 Years**:0-5 89%6-12 70%13-18 60%**Exits from Care**:38% Return to parent3% Return to other relative23% Adopted14% Guardianship20% Age out at 18Question:“Are the statistics broken down by county?”Answer: “Half are from New Castle County and Sussex & Kent are divided”. “We try to keep the children in the same state, same county, and same school”. |
| ***What do we know about the health of children in foster care?**** Initial pilot evaluation by chart review of children in foster care.
* Use of psychotropic medication by children in care.

*Vicky Kelly*10 min* Pilot medical home at Nemours AI duPont Hospital for Children.

*Krishna White*5 min | A medical subcommittee headed by Amanda Kay, MD Christiana Care Pediatrician, completed a pilot chart review of 40 patients - 10 charts were reviewed in 4 regional offices. The study showed:* A lack of continuity care in children with chronic illnesses before foster care and after coming into foster care.
* Case management challenges.
* More regulations & compliance laws than other states.
* Frustration is clear at the physician level regarding access to patient information due to legal issues and federal requirements. Need parental agreement to care for patient. Birth parent has residual right and must be involved in the clinical decisions.
* Caseworker role frustration when taking patient to clinical appointments.
* Physician frustration towards caseworker for lack of patient medical history.
* Physicians do not understand that the foster care system regulations limit caseworker’s knowledge of child’s medical history.
* Need Public Health input on Task Force.
* Home visiting nurses.
* Evidence based model restrictions on age some up to the age of 2.

Psychotropic medication:* Pulse at the national level – Summit in DC.
* Working with CynthiaDenemark, Director of Pharmacy Services**,** DelawareMedicaid.
* More than 50% of foster care children are on medication.
* Medication is over prescribed.
* Challenge to get data – Cathy Zorc is working with Bill McGonegal, Medical Fiscal Manager, DHSS. Plan to look at the psychotropic relationship.
* Interviewing pharmacist will help provide monitoring.
* Tufts University did a study “Multi-State Study on Psychotropic Medication Oversight in Foster Care” and Delaware was chosen for a study continual plan.

Nemours Foster Care Health Program:* Krishna will email stats of patients seen in clinic without any clinical information.
* 2013 approximately 122 patients were seen and 167 visits.
* 1-2 hour initial consultation visit needs to be scheduled for each foster care child.
* Applied for grant – united health care for behavioral health in teens, life skill training, birth control and STD training.
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| ***What do we still need to know about the health of children in foster care?**** Review plan for Medicaid data analysis and provide feedback.
* Discussion

*Vicky Kelly and Cathy Zorc*15 min | Cathy spoke to Bill McGonegal from DHSS and will meet with him on October 13th to discuss Medicaid cost data. |
| ***What interventions can this task force suggest to improve the health of children in foster care?*** * Discussion

*Vicky Kelly and Cathy Zorc*10 min | Role of Subcommittee:* Federal funding
* Research funding
* Looking at other models of care
* Collecting feedback from Stakeholders, i.e., Youth Advisory Council

Cathy will send email.Need to get Linda Tholstrup, Deputy Director, Bureau of Maternal & Child Health involved in the Task Force. |
| ***Review of future meeting dates and deadline.****Vicky Kelly and Cathy Zorc*5 min | Formal Task Force Meeting will take place at the end of November. Subcommittee should meet in between. Email or call Cathy with questions.Deadline for Grant is the end of April. |

**Next Meeting:**