

Trend Analysis Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

In attendance: *Darla Taylor, Dawn Hollingsworth, Del Bircher, Jeff Harrop, Judy Hull, Linda Prince, Linda Wininger, Mike Pomeroy, Sam Syphrett (by phone), Tanya Albornoz, Tonya Myrup*

Notes

Follow-up on last meeting's notes and assignments.

Aude is on vacation, so Judy and Linda took the lead for this meeting. Aude sent the minutes from last meeting to all members for their review. Assignments from last meeting are:

- Trend 5 – Navina and Tanya were going to look into age groups of children who have been in care for more than 24 months. Tanya reported that to date, they haven't looked into this.
- Trend 4 and Trend 7 – Sam was going to find out why his region is doing well in these trends. He will email that information to Jeff once it is ready.
- Trend 14 – Members were asked to get feedback on what will be good for the education tab in SAFE. Linda explained that we currently report on education level when children exit care. The Ansell-Casey assessment has elements of education, but they do not include grades, attendance, etc. Some judges will not let youth exit care until they graduate from high school. Linda explained that sometimes youth are enrolled and attending school or a GED course, but exit before these courses are completed. We also need to see what we have to meet the DSPD youth's needs – these youth are in care until they are 21 years old so they remain in an "enrolled" status. These data are not current, so it may be helpful to have a notice to remind workers to enter this information.

Navina reports on the presentation to the State QIC and their decision.

Navina is on maternity leave, so Linda reported that the State QIC has given conditional approval to go ahead with the changes. Aude was able to present a portion of these changes to the State QIC, and she will continue with this presentation at their next meeting. The October report will reflect these changes.

Judy Hull and Linda Prince discuss the current kinship data measures and which ones should be included in our Trends.

At this meeting, we need to identify what trends we want to measure in our kinship program area. Linda gave a presentation of data that are currently available (Kinship Quarterly Report). This report will be sent to the RDs for their review. The group reviewed these data trends:

- All children removed from home and placed with a relative. Eastern Region is really low in this data measure. They have been waiting for relatives to become licensed before placing with relatives, which needs to be remedied. The RFCs will become the kinship specialists in that region in the near future. Judy will be meeting with Paul in October to address this issue. Darla stated that the region may need more training in this regard. Judy will address

this issue with Administration. The group would like to see this information on a quarterly basis.

- Both initial placements with relatives and placement with relatives at any time during the period. This is annual data and only includes foster care cases. It would be good to look at placement disruptions. The group discussed what qualifies as a “placement disruption”. SAFE does have a termination reason, but it doesn’t include kinship disruption reasons. We want to look at this for disruptions that occur under three months, as well as those that occur over three months. We would like to look at placement stability reports and separate out kin placements in those reports. Linda explained how codes are used when placing with unlicensed kin who then become licensed. We want to look quarterly at placement stability with kin. We need to look at what programming is available and how we can pull these data.
- Home-based services. It’s unclear from these data if there has been a removal or not. It is also not clear as to when we need to take a child into care as to when they can go with kin without a removal. We need to clarify this so we don’t take children into care when we don’t necessarily have to. Better upfront assessments and education will help with this issue.
- Those who exit to a relative. There is a statewide increase in this measure. This measure will not be included in a quarterly report.
- Those who re-enter from a relative. This measure will be included in a quarterly report. These data do not include adoptions, but this is looked at in a separate measure. Linda will add the time period to the report.
- Average number of months in custody. This report looks at closure reason as the child exits custody. When a child is in a preliminary placement with a relative, it will be pulled into this data measure. It would be helpful to look at this comparatively to kinship versus non-kinship. The group would like to see additional data around this measure.
- Average number of months in custody – exit to relative adoptions. We don’t have a measure for re-entries from adoption.
- Number of licensed resource families. Nearly half of these are licensed kin.

The year-end Trends Report should be out. If so, we’ll go over the main trends and discuss possible causes and actions required.

Aude highlighted some of these trends for review. Linda will send the complete report to Carol for distribution.

- Trend 2 – Out-of-home care abuse. Very small percentage statewide. This will be replaced with the CFSR measure.
- Trend 6 – Exit within 12 months. We are not performing so well in this measure. This will be replaced with the CFSR measure.
- Trend 7 – Prior SCF episodes. We have increased in this measure since last year, and we want to decrease in this measure. This will be replaced with the CFSR measure.
- Trend 8 – Average months in custody. This trend may show that our TAL youth are staying in care for longer periods of time. This will be replaced with the CFSR measure.
- Trend 9 – Priority timeframes. We are doing very well in this measure. There were only 5 priority 1s last year. This will be addressed in the CPR measures.
- Trend 10 – Fewer than 3 placement changes. We need to find out what Southwest is doing as they are performing very well in this measure. But, according to the CFSR measure, Western and Northern are performing very well. This will be replaced with the CFSR

measures. We also want to look at ages 0-3 separately. Each region can look at their placement changes on a monthly basis to see if there are patterns within their region. We should see a better trend now that we are no longer doing shelter placements.

These reports are available on the website at <http://www.hsdcs.utah.gov/QuarterlyReport.htm>.

If there are other areas we would like to look at in the kinship program area, please send them to Carol Miller for inclusion in the minutes.

Next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2009, from 10am to 12pm.