**CSWE Child Welfare Special Meeting**

**November 6, 2009**

**San Antonio**

Announcement: Special Issue of Journal of Public Child Welfare on Advocacy and Public Relations special editors: Barbara Tomlinson and Eileen Pasteur. This special issue originated from this meeting last year.

**Child Welfare Legislative Updates and Budget Crisis—Joan Zlotnick**

* Asked for people to forward to her research related to workforce issues, and to send to Crystal Collins-Camargo for posting on the IVE Partnership Website at the University of Louisville.
* 1990s began process of bringing people together to talk about using IVE resources to train/educate child welfare workers. We have used dissemination methods and discussions to get more people to do this because the federal government was not sending information about this opportunity.
* Since 2000 much more emphasis on this. Children’s Bureau has taken more leadership in this, working with other groups to move this field forward, particularly after 2003 GAO report saying the CB could do more in the area of workforce.
* 2004 Child Welfare Workforce Policy Group, Recruitment and Retention Grants, Journal of Public Child Welfare, Child Welfare Workforce Institute and other initiatives have all amassed since then. There have been a lot of advancements and workforce has been seen as a more important issue.
* Social Work Reinvestment Initiative— see socialworkreinvestment.org or NASW website for more information. Not child welfare specific but certainly relevant. A big piece was introduction in 110 Congress and 111th .
  + Creation of SWR Commission to address the future of the profession
  + 4 other components. Discretionary Grants onWorkplace Improvements; High Caseloads, Social Work Supervision, Research Grants and post-docs on validating social work interventions, some focused on minority institutions, community-based programs of excellence
  + Legislation calls for authorization for about $43 million.
  + House bill many emails and postcards sent to Congress (75 cosponsors)
  + Senate -9 cosponsors of legislation.
  + Are briefing papers on the website for this.
* National Child Weflare Policy Efforts
  + Children’s Defense Fund and Children’s Rights recognized workforce issues must be address to improve work with families. Working with a larger group to gain consensus on what needs to be done in this area.
  + Need to respond to a number of barriers: (eg. Leadership, organizational environment, quality education, supervision, mentoring, timely and accurate data, practice-enhancing research, evaluation, technology, family and community connectedness, etc.
    - Amount and quality of research has been lacking in the field. Studies often work with different definition of retention, restricted to social work degrees, etc.
  + Group established a detailed vision of effective workforce
  + Progress to date: Articulation of these components (is a graphic); growing consensus on needed policy reform; more uniformity on the message, more attention to Workforce at Children’s Bureau; workforce policy improvements have been considered in Congress.
  + In the past Hillary Clinton and Sen. McDermott had introduced a two different bills related to child welfare workforce last year. Clinton has been looking for a new sponsor since she is no longer in the Senate, hope to be accomplished soon and reintroduced. Components:
    - National Child Welfare Staff Study by National Academy of Science to look at characteristics of the workforce, turnover, relationship between CW and other professionals, workers and supervisors, education and training, staff’s assessment of outcomes
    - Regulations for new data collection in HHS on child welfare staff and connection to outcomes
    - Steps to remove barriers to training in child welfare using IVE resources, including delink eligibility requirements tied to AFDC, allow IVE use for all types of CW training, professionals in other fields like domestic violence, allow private non-profit institutions of higher education to draw IVE funds
    - Comprehensive child welfare improvement demonstration project funding related to workforce
      * It will be important once introduced for this to be distributed on the IVE listserv and website so we can become active in our states
  + Fostering Connections Act of 2008: training of private child welfare agency staff and courts; Resource Center being operated by several organizations has information on this at: [www.fosteringconnections.org](http://www.fosteringconnections.org)
    - Key question: are states using the new funding to train private agencies?
* Discussion
  + Katherine Cahn—Most of us in universities often don’t get information on policy issues and legislations in process. Where can we get quality information on what is allowable under Title IVE? We operate under folk wisdom
    - Joan—I try to post key information on IVE listserv. Issues around IVE regulations are no clearer today than they have ever been. The only thing Fostering Connections did was make private agency staff training eligible for short term training initiatives not the educational piece.
    - Alvin Sallee, New Mexico State University—one of the very frustrating things is that every federal region has their own interpretation of IVE regulations. In our region have a roundtable discussion on this, but most regions may not do this. If we could just say cost allocation would not apply to IVE—it would help tremendously, while we are waiting for a more comprehensive approach.
    - Becky, NASW—Building the relationship with the legislators ahead of time, such as quarterly communication or district office meetings regarding the issues. Then when they get the letter about a new piece of legislation we want them to support, they are more likely to respond.
    - Joan—big hearing yesterday on reauthorization of CAPTA, a lot focused on differential response—so much focus on programs and not enough on workforce. KY has done a thorough effort of studies looking at child and family outcomes associated with IVE programs.
      * Child Welfare Information Gateway—if nothing else, get on CB Express email list. Include a lot of workforce issues.
    - Chris Mathias—child welfare policy manual on Children Bureau website.
    - Crystal Collins-Camargo—a lot of information is posted on the website, including what Chris refers to. New information should be forwarded to Crystal for posting.
    - Eileen Pasteur—Question about workforce taking care of children—foster and adoptive parents. We need to not leave this group out.
      * University of TX in Arlington—we provide training to resource parents through IVE
      * Chris Mathias, short term training of foster parents in California
      * Mary McCarthy, many resource discussed today are from the University point of view, the CW Workforce Institute is developing information for workers, managers and supervisors, see [www.ncwwi.org](http://www.ncwwi.org) . They have been surveying middle managers and supervisors, and websites are not their preference. They are creating one page summaries of research on workforce issues. Send Sara, who is leading dissemination for the Institute, new research on workforce issues so they can include it.

**Next Two Sessions will be Topic-Based Roundtable Discussions**

Ten different topics simultaneously will be addressed through roundtables. This format was requested at this meeting last year.

**Business Meeting**

A special welcome to the people attending this meeting for the first time.

Thanks to abstract reviewers. Blind review was conducted. 72 abstracts submitted for CSWE this year. Second largest track (larger is Geo-Ed). Accepted were: 30 oral sessions, 10 papers , 6 workshops, 5 panels and 1 roundtable in the child welfare track.

Next your CSWE will be in Portland. Katherine Cahn: Portland State is going to work with this group to offer a warm welcome—will do something special. Abstract submittal date is 2-28-10.

Website for the partnership is hosted at University of Louisville site: <http://louisville.edu/kent/projects/iv-e> . People should email Crystal Collins-Camargo with items to be posted.

IVE listserv is operated at UGA, after being originated by Sherill Clark at UC Berkley. If anyone wants to be on it—email Bert. 518 people are on the listserv.

Journal of Public Child Welfare: last issue for volume 3 comes out in December. First issue of Volume 4 is full. Initially began as a Haworth publication, now bought out by Taylor and Francis. Eileen Paztor and Barbara Tomlinson have agreed to be special editor of special issue on advocacy and public relations. However no articles have been submitted. Will extend deadline to end of January instead of end of December.

Expansion of peer network facilitated by National Child Welfare Workforce Institute: Sharon Kollar reported that this group asked for opportunity to develop more interaction outside the listserv and the meeting. The NCWWI agreed to host a peer network including 4 teleconferences or webinar in the next year.

Children’s Bureau Educator’s Tool Kit, 2nd Edition, Patricia Brincefield, Child Welfare Information Gateway. Originally conceptualized as sharing current Gateway resources with students. Small group began working on this on CD Rom as a resource for educators. This is the 2nd edition with additional resources. Monit Cheung helped with a distribution list and mailed to 500 institutions. Includes classroom and assignment tips. Next step will be putting it on the website with much more information. Phase II is providing orientation to schools—will do live presentations at schools or by webinar. If meet with faculty can do in about an hour. For students would like them to be in a computer lab.

Identify ACF regions that are increasing constrints and narrowing interpretations. Mary Lee Allen from Children’s Defense Fund asked that we be asked if some regions are experiencing more restrictive interpretations now. Virginia and Kansas programs have be terminated. In KS the interpretations were so strict they could not meet the match. It finally became impossible to offer the services. Carmen Nazareo, the new head of ACF, is an MSW and was a child welfare program director and social work educator. She has accepted to come to the IVE Roundtable in Region 6, June 3-4, 2010 and be the keynote speaker. She has made a video address on Utube.

National Stipend Survey, Monit Cheung. This survey has been conducted for a number of years. They are trying to get the most updated website address where it is posted at University of Houston. It is also linked on the IVE Partnership Website. Patrick Leung and Monit Cheung have also updated the Journal List for Manuscript Submission. <http://www.uh.edu/ocp/cwep.htm>

Feedback on format for today’s session and discussion of format for next year: one large session and 2 roundtable sessions. University of Maryland took charge of organizing the roundtable sessions today.

* Wish could report out from the groups. More groups than could go to. Format worked well. Also should keep the legislative update session.
* The best moments in this meeting are when you hear something very concrete for your program. Would like to build in an introduction session so we know who is here. It would be good to have advanced information about size of programs, and cluster people that way for a discussion and could discuss structural information.
* Monit—last year when updated the stipend matrix, someone asked that include the size of the program, but only 4 or 5 people responded to that. If people would submit that information, they could use that information (number of staff, number of MSW and BSW students).
* If everyone would bring something about their program for take one table—something that would be useful to other programs.
* One person found that her program and her role was very different than the people on the roundtables—organize by function (PI, trainers, coordinators)
* If had groups of shorter duration (45 minutes), could have more groups; then a time for interest group topics, with 4 people or so on a targeted discussion.
* Liked breakout sessions. Would have liked to have more.
* Maybe groups that have specialized interests we could have sign up of topics over lunch. Katherine Cahn: in Portland—could maybe bring in food and have more structure. Perhaps NCWWI could help staff it.
* Bert—re: food, the charges from the hotels for meals are very high. Could we pay for a box lunch. Eileen Paztor would help work on. Would require some element of advanced registration. Majority indicated they would be willing to pay for a box lunch.
* Perhaps need a planning committee to work out the logistics.

Agreed on this format for this year: One large group, 2 small roundtables, then affinity groups over lunch. For large group session will stick with legislative update.

Planning group: Katherine Cahn, Eileen Paztor plus others from this year’s planning committee.

Election of Child Welfare Symposium chair: Bert Ellett

CSWE has call for nominations for Board of Directors. Need to have child welfare people on the board. See Bert if you are interested.

New business: University of Louisville will look into the possibility of having a wiki associated with the IVE Partnership Website. Group was interested in this.

Suggested we invite Carmen Nazzareo to attend meeting next year as she is a former social work educator.