



**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Friday, January 13, 2017**  
**8:30 - 10:00 AM**  
**Polk County River Place**  
**2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310**  
**Conference Room 2**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Lynda O'Meara called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Present were Teresa Burke, Kerry Williams, Angela Wacker, Tamra Jurgameyer, Heather Thomas, Darryle Bohanna, Joyce Bruce, Berry Devine, Lynda O'Meara, Jennifer Sleiter, Al Perez, Katie Kamienski, Kim Ayotte, Eric Kool, Ellen Overton.

**Review & Approval of August Meeting Minutes**

Tamra Jurgameyer moved to accept. Jennifer Sleiter seconded the motion. All approved the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

**New Chair**

Teresa Burke discussed the need of appointing a new chair. New Decat Steering Committee Chair requires to be appointed every year (per calendar year) and s/he gets to sit on DECAT board does vote on use of funds. S/he helps bring the providers and community voice to Decat board. Decat board meets monthly on the third Thursday at 10 am.

Al Perez volunteered to be on board. Motion was made by Katie Kamienski. Angela Wacker seconded. And the motion was carried.

**New Member Introductions**

Kerry Williams, CPPC & Project Coordinator of Polk Decat joined the meeting as a new member.

**Engaging parents – discussion of best practices and effective approaches**

Polk County received PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) funds which is a combination of the federal and state funding for engaging parents. Teresa explained the

difficulties of utilizing PSSF Funding due to the strict criteria in eligibility, record keeping and tracking policies.

There was a time that Polk County was able to expend the funds on Family Team Meetings, which was listed under the eligible services, especially to cover the Pre-Post Removal Conferences and Plan for Reunification before the few changes were made in categories of services. When the Family Team Meetings were removed from the menu of services, it limits the use of the funds plus the PSSF funds are not carried over to the next year. There are still great services listed we can utilize the PSSF funds for. Teresa was looking into feedback from Steering Committee on what existing communities and services are available to utilize the PSSF funds. PSSF funds can benefit parents who don't have insurance but need consistent therapy. The funds can't be applied to the undocumented.

Tamra Jurgemeyer gave comments on the Functional Family Therapy (FFT). FFT is an evidence-based family intervention program for families of youth (age 11-18), not for young children under age 10 who are mostly involved with DHS cases. This may be great for high-risk families in a long run; however, the cost of running this program is very high and a number of cases are too low to meet the needs. The cost is not covered by insurance. Multi-Dimensional Cultural Family Therapy might be more suitable, added Eric Kool. Orchard Place has been facing a challenge to retain staff due to high-intensity therapy, non-traditional working hours, and frequent driving requirements of FFT.

Steering Committee members reviewed the Parent and Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) as PSSF funds can cover all other counseling. Tamra said it is also great form of therapy, however, it would be unusual thing for clients to do for 16 weeks in a row, and usually it's hard to find a two-way mirror installed facility. One of very effective programs is the Child Parent Cycle Therapy (CPCT) which is very similar form as PCIT but for families of young children, and it takes a year to complete. However, when Polk County Decat pays for those services, Polk County Decat has to go through public procurement and obtain the contacts. It will be difficult to expend this year's PSSF funds budget.

Teresa Burke also suggested members to think of substance abuse issues combined with mental health issues to utilize PSSF funds. Heather Thomas said that Prelude is developing a lot of Opiates Programs, and involved with Primary Healthcare. Al Perez added if there is any prevention program for substance abuse in Des Moines Public Schools. Having parents engage with those programs will need incentives (i.e. child care, meals and transportation) to remove all the barriers as much as possible. However, to utilize PSSF funds, it will need to be narrowed down and omit people for those who may have coverage for this service, either through private insurance or Medicaid. What makes it difficult to use PSSF funds is strict criteria to meet for using federal funds because you will not only have to pay funds back but also pay the penalty for it.

### **DMPS African American Males project & DECAT involvement**

Des Moines Public Schools has a program, Brother-to-Brother program, that helps junior high students to boost their confidence and help with their grades. Polk County Decat just has finished writing a contract with DMPS for DHS and JCS to help field trip to colleges, Dress-up-on-Friday with purchasing "dress-up" clothes and other activities.

### **Restorative Justice & Cultural Equity Coordination update**

Darryle Bohanna's role is split between JCS and Polk County Decat. He is currently involved with the preventative initiative program to keep youth out of system. Iowa is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of racial disproportionality in Juvenile Justice System. He is working on resources area to provide clients who are visiting Juvenile courts downtown. On the Decat side, Darryle is part of a team providing supports to students placed in DMACC, including incentives programss and is also involved with African Case Review team to help DHS to approach to cases more efficiently.

**New Project/CPPC Coordinator – Kerry Williams**

Kerry Williams introduce herself as new Project and CPPC coordinator in Polk County Decat.

**Adjourn by Lynda O'Meara at 10:10 a.m.**

Attachment – PSSF Time-Limited Reunification Program Requirements, SFY2016

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