

Financing the Future of Child Welfare Meeting Five—September 12, 2006 NOTES

Attending:

Riaz Aziz
David Benson
Patricia Coldwell
Doug Green
Tom Henderson
Suzanne Koeplinger
Ed Larsen
Kate Lerner
Harvey Linder
Bob Meyer
Judge Susan Miles
Rose Robinson
Glenda Rooney
Rob Sawyer
Jerry Soma
Stella Whitney-West

From DHS:

Michelle Basham
Katie Burns
Jim Huber
Chuck Johnson
Vern LaPlante
Meredith Martinez
Lori Munsterman
Bette O'Donnell
Erin Sullivan Sutton
Dave Thompson
Bill Wyss

Agenda

- Refine Allocation Formula
- Respond to current draft
- Plan communications and follow up activities

Refine Allocation Formula

The group reviewed and confirmed the simple rules for an effective allocation formula:

1. Provide incentives for improvements in outcomes for kids.
2. Provide continuity during transition from historical to performance-based funding for counties and tribes.
3. Respond to different levels of need for children in counties and for counties' capacity.
4. Motivate all counties toward state-wide consistency, continuous improvement, and service development.
5. Minimize administrative expenses.
6. Adjust funding over time to respond to changing needs

The group approved \$110 million as a working total for new monies. This is in addition to the CCSA funds currently committed to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children.

The group discussed and resolved the following questions:

- Should Taxing Capacity of counties be considered in the formula. The group decided not to include it for a variety of reasons:
 - It complicates the formula and makes it less transparent.
 - The Taxing Capacity is not realistic indicator of the resources counties commit to safety, permanency, and well-being.
 - Consistent state-wide support requires that children and children in poverty be the reliable measures for allocation portion based on need.
 - No county taxes up to the taxing capacity anyway.
 - Some of this distinction is already carried in the CCSA funds, which are included in the allocation formula.
- What should be the relationship between indicators for number of children in county and children living under the poverty line in the county? The group decided to make the ration 50/50 to recognize that services should be allocated across the whole population of children.
- How will variations among Tribes and between Tribes and counties be handled? A work group will be identified to work out details of a Tribal participation in the Child Safety Act.
- What are other states doing with their formulae? Nan Beman will collect data from other states.

Review Current Draft

Everyone provided comments to revise the current report draft. The revised draft is attached to this report.

Child Safety Fund Allocation Formula

	Factor	Indicator	Years					
			1	2	3	4	5	
A	CCSA 50% of total CCSA allocation for each county committed to Child Safety Fund							
B	95%	Historical continuity	Lost revenues from CWTCM (Average of previous three years)	90	70	50	25	0
		Need-based	50% Children in poverty 50% Children in county (Average of previous three years)	10	25	35	55	70
		Performance-based	Change in performance (SSIS data for CFSR and CCSA)	0	5	15	20	30
	5%	Innovation	Project and grant-based to meet specific needs					
C	Tribal participation and transition to be determined by a working group including Tribal, county, and DHS representatives.							

Future Work

What	By Whom?
Define details of Options for Tribes to opt into the Child Safety Act	Work Group to be identified including Tribal leadership
Work out technical details of the proposal, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance-based distribution • Draft legislation • Provide technical assistance • Run models of allocation including ratio between children in county and children in poverty • Interpret and distribute finding from the Federal Audit and changes in regulations 	Work Groups to be identified
Communicate with Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Management Briefing • Senior Management Retreat • Budget discussions post-election 	DHS
Communicate with Public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share key messages with multiple constituencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for a change ▪ Outline of the recommendation • Place report on web site • Communicate with county legislators and commissioners 	Eoyang prepare draft of talking points. All share information
Communicate with counties: Metro Directors AMC Policy process MACSSA position statements AMC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform development • Legislative strategies/priorities • County Futures Project • County lobbyists MACSSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions drafted • Full membership briefing and feedback Establish strategies for various circumstances	Kate Lerner Patricia Coldwell County representatives
Revise report, prepare notes, draft key messages for public and for decision makers	Glenda Eoyang

The group adjourned this, their final meeting, with thanks to all for their thoughtful participation and to DHS for the insight and courage to support such a frank and productive conversation.