

**Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems Integration Initiative
Executive Committee Meeting
March 29, 2007**

Participants:

1. Chris Finch, Commissioner, DHS
2. Kimberley Causey Gomez, Assistant Commissioner, DHS
3. Ada-Luz Rivera, District Manager, DHS, Office of Intervention Services, Juvenile Unit
4. Evril Powell, Acting Director of Treatment, DHS-Youth Rehabilitation Center
5. Sasha Marohn, Co-Director, Childworth Support Services for Families
6. Wanda Wright, Co-Director, Childworth Support Services for Families
7. Clema Lewis, Co-Director, Women's Coalition of St. Croix
8. Masserae Sprauve Webster, CEO, Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands
9. Dr. Denise Marshall, Director, Mental Health, Department of Health
10. Karen Hendricks, Mental Health Division, Department of Health
11. Dr. Rita Dudley-Grant, Director, VI Behavioral Services

CWLA Consultant:

1. John A. Tuell, Consultant, CWLA

Welcome: Chris Finch

- The vision of DHS is to provide a seamless system of a continuum of quality care for our children and families, so that we don't lose children through the cracks.
- The goal is to have a set of services and programs that make sense that include good benefits for families and good outcomes for children.
- How we share information will be a crucial part of this project.
- What can WE do to improve services is the ultimate GOAL.

Review of history, goals and objectives of the grant: Kimberley Gomez

- Supported through a LEPC federal grant, CWLA presented the concept of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems Integration approach at the VI Juvenile Justice Symposium held in June 2006 in both districts.
- A follow-up meeting was held with the (now) Executive Committee in September 2006 to request support and commitment.
- A grant application was reviewed by the VI State Advisory Group (SAG), which was in full support of the project.
- See attached copy of a portion of the grant application submitted to LEPC in October 2006. NOTE: The goals are to 1) strengthen partnerships in St. Croix in support of children and youth served by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and 2) improve outcomes for dependent and delinquent children/youth receiving services and their families.

Overview of Project: John Tuell

- Systemic reform - "target population" - multidisciplinary approach
- "Dual" jurisdictions (child welfare and juvenile justice)
- Dependency population - increased risk of committing serious crimes
- CWLA Framework - specific study and analysis (see one page CWLA attachment)
- Establish Governance - Executive Committee structure
- Role of CWLA - consultant, facilitators vs. prescriptive
- Project Coordinator - Local (Kimberley Gomez)
- How is this applied to the Virgin Islands?

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR INITIATIVE

- Executive Committee with three sub-committees
- Executive Committee - leadership, people in positions of authority to make decisions for their agencies
- Sub-committees - best expertise may be the Executive Committee (outcomes are on website - CWLA.org/JJ/Consultation - Initiatives)
- Three sub-committees of the Study and Analysis Phase are:
 - Data Collection, Management, & Performance Measurement
 - Inventory and Assessment
 - Legal and Policy Analysis - mandates, policies that govern way we interact with one another
 - Example taken from CWLA Guidebook
 - Legislation was developed in SD (allowing better decisions)
 - Developed Protocol - entering JJ and had background
- Identify two (2) leaders for sub-committees
- There will be four (4) On-sight (VI) Meetings with CWLA Consultant, John Tuell
- Conference Calls in between meetings with sub-committees will be held
- Clarification of the Executive Committee vs. Steering Committee (not the same)
 - Other jurisdictions - developed both, the Virgin Islands it may not be necessary

Recommendations of Additions to the Executive Committee/Sub-committee:

**Addition to the Legal/Policy Sub-Committee - AG's Office (Danny Matarangus King or Jasmine Griffin),

**Addition to the Legal/Policy Sub-Committee - Public Defender's Office (Ask Attorney Harold Willock who be appointed or Atty. Miguel Camacho)

**Addition to Executive Committee - Child Protection

**Addition to Executive Committee - Commissioner or Superintendent, DOE (or may be assigned that can make decisions for the department)

(Kim will develop letter from Commissioner DHS to DOE signature)

CWLA/LSS Memorandum of Agreement

- Development of MOU or original "Charter" - John will forward FL, SD, Los Angeles examples (John will draft and forward)

Sub-Committees:

Data Collection

Lisa Donastorg, Administrator, DHS - ORRD
Evril Powell, Acting Director of Treatment, YRC (Co-Lead)
Rita Dudley-Grant, VIBS (Co-Lead)
Kathleen Greenaway, Data Coordinator, for Division of Mental Health
773-1311 ext. 3018
Wanda Wright, Childworth

Inventory and Assessment (constructing available resources first)

DOE - Oneida Granger
DHS/YRC - Michael Shea (Co-Lead)
DHS - Carla Benjamin
Karen Hendricks, DOH - Mental Health
Dr. Denise Marshall, Director, Mental Health (Co-Lead)
Clema Lewis, WCSC
VIBS - Shana Brathwaite 773-6445
Sasha Marohn, Childworth
Superior Court representation (court administrator/clerk from Family
Division)

Legal and Policy Council

Attorney Patricia Welcome, DHS Legal Counsel (Co-Lead)
Ada-Luz Rivera, DHS District Manager (Co-Lead)
Attorney from Public Defenders
Attorney from AG's office
CASA representation

Next Steps:

Ask Sub-committee Leads to hold meeting with conference call w/ CWLA Consultant prior to meeting on the 29th

Next Executive Committee Meetings - 12-3pm Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at Superior Court

CWLA Consultant available each on-site meeting and conference call for each sub-committee

Nine month time line to complete project/initiative

MOU to be drafted by CWLA consultant for group to approve