

**Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)  
Performance Based Contract (PBC) Meeting  
Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Welcome**

**Opening Remarks by Joseph Bruno, Child Welfare Administrator**

Louisiana is changing the way the state conducts business. In 2008, a Residential Review Commission of experts was appointed to study the state's licensing of child residential facilities and DCFS use of residential care within the delivery of child welfare services. The report is "A Blueprint for Transformation and Change: In Louisiana's Residential Programs. The recommendations from the residential review commission indicated improving the long-term outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families. The residential care system needs to be unique, and more specialized with clear program models of practice. The commission recommended that a performance based system be developed.

Louisiana is undertaking the development of a statewide Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) for Louisiana's at risk children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges or co-occurring disorders. CSOC will create partnerships with public and private providers of services that target children, youth and their families in a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary system of services. The CSOC is an evidenced based approach that is part of a national movement to develop family driven and youth guided care, keep children at home, in school, and out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

**Overview of PBC by Karla Venkataraman, DCFS**

- The reason for this meeting is to: introduce the provider community to the concept of PBC and to discuss the components of CSOC.
- DCFS is following a national trend in child welfare to move to a PBC process. PBC aligns provider agency goals with those of the contracting agency.
- DCFS will include input from providers and key stakeholders as we develop a PBC.
- A work group will meet consisting of staff, consultants and a representative of the provider community from Louisiana Association of Child Care Agencies (LACCA) to develop PBC.

- The impact will be a major shift/change in the way that services are delivered.

### **Introduction of key consultants**

- Sue Steib, Ph.D – Casey Family Programs, Sr. Director, Strategic Consulting, will provide input into the development and implementation of the PBC process.
- Julie Collins, LCSW – Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), will serve as the discussion facilitator for this meeting.

### **Agenda Reviewed (attached)**

#### **Overview of PBC; Karla Venkataraman, Presenter**

An overview of PBC in Louisiana (see Power Point presentation)

#### **Coordinated System of Care**

Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) Overview – Shannon Robshaw, Presenter (see Power Point presentation)

#### **Discussion**

- Concern was expressed regarding looking at other agencies and their implementation.
- State assured that they will work in partnership with providers to implement the CSoC.
- It is about a coordination of care between state agencies.
- The partnership includes families and providers.
- CSoC pilot will begin January 1, 2011. The pilot region has not been determined yet.
- There will be a regional phase in process
- DCFS is working to merge its process with other protocols.

***Lunch Break***

**Questions and Answers facilitated by Julie Collins, CWLA**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Providers were encouraged to send questions regarding CSoC to Shannon.Robshaw@la.gov	
How will DCFS insure that providers who are not a part of LACCA will have input in development of PBC?	Will post the PBC development on the DCFS website and there will be a form on the website for input. LACCA is using the DCFS mailing list to distribute draft documents and to solicit feedback. The mailing list includes current providers and DCFS prospective providers.
From what I understand the emphasis is how quickly we move children through the foster care system. How will foster parents be integrated into the process? Foster parents today don't have a voice on when children move.	<p>DCFS wants a child to achieve permanency and not to remain in foster care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A case manager will be assigned to the case; team conferences will allow for input along with the agency and provider representatives; staffing will be held to involve foster parents/provider</li> <li>• Family will be involved in the process</li> <li>• As the state moves forward everyone will be accountable for the safety of a child in care.</li> </ul>
How will the services non profits provide fit in? We provide counseling services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All types of services including community based services will be included in the RFP</li> <li>• There will be a strong emphasis on evidenced based/informed services.</li> </ul>
What about children placed out of their community and will need transportation for visits, will this be provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will work together with the provider and agency to provide transportation for visits.</li> <li>• Focus will be on keeping children close to their home.</li> </ul>

<p>If a child was taken out of a bad environment and does not want to return why does the state want to return them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Collins provided a “perspective” that even though they may not be able to return to live with the family they can develop the skills to reconnect in another way.</li> <li>• Research shows that children ultimately re-connect with family.</li> <li>• Must make a positive connection at an earlier point in the system.</li> <li>• Shift in thinking about permanency. Permanency and placement is not necessarily the same thing.</li> <li>• We will work to identify other key relationships in the life to keep children connected.</li> <li>• Shift in thinking permanency may be a connection to people who will provide a family setting.</li> <li>• We should not allow youth to “age out” of foster care without positive connections that are expected to be life long.</li> </ul>
<p>Could permanency be a foster home?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal is permanent family outside the foster care system; adoption; guardianship; relatives</li> </ul>
<p>What about those who want to open a facility that provides a home like setting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be familiar with the new licensing regulations.</li> <li>• Also connect with other regional providers to coordinate services</li> <li>• The RFP will outline the types of services DCFS will request</li> </ul>
<p>How do you find out who the other local providers are?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listing included on DCFS licensing website of licensed providers.</li> </ul>

<p>Is there going to be shared risk with difficult placements for discharge planning?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are great challenges in discharge planning.</li> <li>• Yes, DCFS will work to define risk sharing in Louisiana through a work group process. DCFS will not require providers to meet goals that they cannot achieve.</li> <li>• Providers will be held equally accountable with the state for outcomes.</li> <li>• Florida learned that using data helps inform them of outcomes achieved or not achieved. They meet on a regular basis to discuss/get solutions.</li> </ul>
<p>Will OJJ have a separate RFP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• DCFS and OJJ continue to work together to share information.</li> </ul>
<p>If residential providers want to do other services can they respond to the RFP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>

### Final Comments

The meeting closed with an overview of components of System of Care by Julie Collins, CWLA.

- Building Bridges Initiative ( SAMHSA)
- Think about assessment driven process
- There is a self assessment tool for providers that can be used as part of the “getting ready” to do a system of care.
- Website [www.buidingbridges4youth.org](http://www.buidingbridges4youth.org)