

Clay County Collaborative Administrative Group Minutes

Thursday, 9 November 2006 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Probstfield Center for Education, Room 303

In attendance: Donna Baker (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Shelley Ford (Clay County Family Court/MN Dept. of Corrections), Gary Groberg (Churches United for the Homeless), Phil Jensen (Hawley ISD #150), Steve Jordahl (Barnesville ISD #146), Patty Kline (Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota), Lanette Krinsky (Children's Mental Health LAC), Kathy McKay (Clay County Public Health), Barry Nelson (Moorhead Healthy Community Initiative), Joyce Newton, (Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters) Larry Nybladh (Moorhead ISD #152), Rhonda Porter (Clay County Social Services), Candace Richards (The Arc of West Central Minnesota), Carolyn Strnad (IHIP work group), Sandi Zaleski (The Village Family Service Center), Allen Zenor (Ulen-Hitterdal ISD #914), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator), Carol Beckstrom (Clay County Social Services)

Shelley Ford welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 10/12/06 (Donna/Lanette) were unanimously approved. There were no changes to today's agenda. (Gary/Bill)

Nuts & bolts

- ✦ There were no questions on the financial report or FY07 budget
- ✦ LCTS update: We haven't received any more news about the OIG audit. People who have questions can contact Jane or Dawn.
- ✦ Coordinator's report: If anyone is interested in being on the planning group for the community meetings in January on children in need of care sponsored by the Women's Fund, let Dawn know. Dawn asked if anyone is noticing children who have a parent serving in the military and are experiencing problems. Dawn will invite Penny, the National Guard's family support person and a representative from the newly-formed family group to attend the next meeting to discuss how Collaborative partner organizations might be involved in supporting them as their family members return from military duty.
- ✦ Governance agreement/partnership fees: Dawn has received signature sheets from eleven partner organizations and partnership payments from two. The payments came in just this week, so they are not included in the budget update for this month.

Funding priorities for FY08 and beyond

Rhonda Porter & Carol Beckstrom talked about what the county's responsibility for providing children's mental health services including Rule 79 case management. Unlike other counties, Clay has historically contracted out case management services. Providers bill MA and later the county gets a bill for 50% of the services. The challenge is to be able to predict how big a bill to expect as this is the area that has been overspent in the past. If kids are not on MA, the providers bill the county directly. At any one time about 250 kids have been receiving Rule 79 case management. Social Services has looked more closely at how case management has been done with input from parents. The big questions are:

- 1) Is Rule 79 the best way to deliver services to the families?
- 2) What other services could the county provide that would meet families' needs?
- 3) How to move children/families who no longer need Rule 79 case management off or how to provide Rule 79 on an as-needed basis.

Some changes that are being made: using an assessment tool that more accurately reflects children's progress, looking at medical necessity for children on MA in response to federal changes.

In response to a question about case management for non-MA SED kids, Rhonda said that there is still money in the Social Services budget, but it is insufficient to meet the needs.

Joyce raised a question about prevention – how do we provide services to kids before their needs become so serious that they need case management? Carol answered that CTSS services are meant for kids who are EBD. Shelley noted that it can also be difficult to get families to accept services even when assessment tools have identified potential problems. Carol agreed that that was a problem. There are many barriers that prevent families from accepting the services that are available. In closing, Rhonda mentioned the maintenance of effort (\$2.8 million for both children's and adult mental health) that is required by the state.

We need to address the needs of ages 0 – 5.

In response to a question about what services the county is obligated to provide and how does that jive with kids being on a waiting list. The multi-disciplinary assessment team looks at all of the kids and makes sure that kids who are at very high risk get services as soon as possible.

Most counties don't contract out as much of the Rule 79 as we do. In other counties, some specific services are contracted out (like Rule 79 in the schools in Otter Tail County). Originally the LAC wanted Rule 79 to be contracted out so that it would be separate from child welfare/child protection system). What is the difference between child welfare and mental health case management? Perhaps there could be an outside audit of the programming.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 21, 9 a.m. at Townsite Center, Moorhead

As time was running out, the meeting was adjourned. (Candace/Lanette)

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Tommerdahl
Collaborative Coordinator