

Clay County Collaborative Administrative Group Minutes

Thursday, 21 December 2006 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Family Service Center, Room 4

In attendance: Carol Beckstrom (Clay County Social Services), Phil Jensen (Hawley ISD #150), Steve Jordahl (Barnesville ISD #146), Lanette Krinsky (Children's Mental Health LAC), Bernie Lipp (Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton ISD #2164), Barry Nelson (Moorhead Healthy Community Initiative), Joyce Newton (Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters), Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Coop), Larry Nybladh (Moorhead ISD #152), Joe Pederson (Lakes and Prairie Community Action), Michael Redlinger (City of Moorhead), Carolyn Strnad (IIIP work group), Stan Thurlow (City of Dilworth), Sandi Zaleski (The Village Family Service Center), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Chair Carolyn Strnad welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 11/09/06 meeting were unanimously approved. (Joyce/Joe) There was one addition to the agenda (parent stipends under nuts and bolts). (Barry/Lanette)

Nuts & bolts

- ✦ *Financial report/FY07 budget:* The third quarter LCTS payment has been received along with a couple of partnership payments since the budget was updated.
 - ✦ A motion was made and approved unanimously to add \$750 to petty cash for parent stipends in January. (Sandi/Joyce)
- ✦ *LCTS update:* No changes coming up in definitions or other federal rules; Carol reported that the system that has been set up for keeping the IV-E list is working well.
- ✦ *Coordinator's report:* Dawn ran through program updates on the report. Carolyn added that the Parent Involvement is making an effort to meet with groups of parents in rural communities to get input on what barriers and needs exist. Program coordinators, Carolyn and Dawn updated the County Board on the work of the Collaborative this Tuesday (December 19).
- ✦ *Governance agreement/partnership fees:* Most partnership fees have been received. Dawn will follow up with the few organizations who haven't signed the governance agreement form yet to find out whether they want to continue as partner organizations. She will send reminders to those who have received invoices for their partnership fees but who have not yet paid.

Presentation

Penny Dale, U of M Extension, gave a presentation on Operation Military Kids: The 4-H program works together with the military (has personnel on military bases around the world) to provide activities for children whose parents are in the military. Operation Military Kids is special program for children whose family members are currently deployed.

- Penny has been working with Moorhead Community Education and the Hjemkomst Center to heighten awareness in Moorhead about the needs of military families both while a family member is deployed and when he/she returns.
- Moorhead Public Schools will offer a session on OMK during in-service day on January 19.
- The Guard doesn't seem equipped to communicate with families about how they might access community supports to help fill their needs because of the size of the deployment. Carol suggested that work groups look at what they could do to contribute to community supports for military families.
- Reintegration will also be a challenge as it can take up to a year for a returned soldier to feel "at home" again. The Vet Center (there's one in Fargo) was set up after the first Gulf War to

address issues of reintegration. Also see “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” campaign on the National Guard website.

- Barry noted that there’s a gap between the people who need services and organizations that have services to offer. He also asked if a regional group is working across the river boundary since many Minnesotans are in the North Dakota Guard. Penny has tried to contact the North Dakota Guard but because of changing the mission of the Air Guard, she wasn’t able to reach anyone.
- Sandi noted that at the beginning of the war the Guard was offering fairs (like mental health fairs, etc.) which were well-attended, but they don’t seem to be offered as consistently now. She feels there is a real need to bring this idea back.
- Sandi also wondered if the FirstLink booklet has a special section on resources for military families.
- Steve observed that older siblings who are enlisting or who are deployed affect younger siblings – Penny confirmed that we’re not just talking about parents who are deployed.

Ideas for further action

- Have a meeting in mid-January of all work groups to talk about big picture issues like helping improve communication between families and organizations. Perhaps this could be done quarterly as a networking opportunity and information about military families would be one topic of discussion.
- Our organizations need to work together to get information out to families who need it and to staff people who are working with families of soldiers who are deployed.
- Penny’s phone number is 236-2017 if anyone would like further information.

Policy on seeking outside funding

People felt strongly that work groups need to seek outside funds. The group discussed SAMSHA grants. Sandi suggested hiring a grant writer. Joe noted that the government is looking for multi-county projects. Joyce reported that REACH taps into faith-based funding and encouraged people to apply for those. Stan confirmed that regionalization is important to grantees.

Looking back on the past year and looking forward

- Work groups are a lot of work, but progress is being made
- Getting the word out to parents is the biggest challenge across our organizations.
- CEOs need to encourage participation on work groups
- Meeting with legislators: Fridays is a good time to meet with them. Find out if County has already had their meeting. Dawn, Carolyn, Lanette and Rachel have been invited to the Intergovernmental retreat in January. Legislators will be present.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 25, 9 a.m.

Location: Family Service Center, either room 2 or 4

Main topic of business: The FY08 work plans

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Tommerdahl
Collaborative Coordinator