

Clay County Collaborative Administrative Group Minutes

Wednesday, 23 May 2007

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Rural Enrichment and Counseling
Headquarters (Hawley)

In attendance: Shelley Ford (Clay County Family Court/MN Dept. of Corrections), Gary Groberg (Churches United for the Homeless), Lanette Krinsky (Children's Mental Health LAC), Bernie Lipp (Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton ISD #2164), Joyce Newton, (Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters), Larry Nybladh (Moorhead ISD #152), Joe Pederson (Lakes and Prairie Community Action), Candace Richards (The Arc of West Central Minnesota), Carolyn Strnad (IIIP work group), Sandi Zaleski (The Village Family Service Center), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator), Alex Ishaug (Truancy Intervention Program coordinator)

Carolyn welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 4/11/07 meeting were unanimously approved. (Joyce/Sandi) There were no changes to today's agenda (Candace/Lanette)

Alex Ishaug gave a short presentation on the **Truancy Intervention Program**. Information on handouts:

- Alex has studied students who've been invited to CAMP meetings through the years and found that 20% graduated, 19% were still enrolled in school, 30% transferred, 16% dropped out and there was no information on 15%.
- The number of students considered continuing truants (3-6 unexcused absences on different days in one school year) is down 3% this year at the elementary level and 5% at the middle/high school level. The number considered habitual truants (7 or more unexcused absences on 7 or more different days in one school year) is down 4% at the elementary level and 7% at the middle/high school level.
- Seventy percent of students whose cases have gone to court have seen a decrease in unexcused absences one month after going to court.
- The number of students served and contacts made are down this year compared to last, primarily because of a decrease in school enrollment and being short-staffed in the Truancy program.
- Results from satisfaction surveys show that understanding legal consequences and consequences from parents were top reasons for improved student attendance.
- Beginning in the fall, there will be group component for rural schools. There has also been a group this spring at Horizon (Moorhead) for 6th graders.
- Truancy staff will work at summer school following up both with court-ordered kids and other kids involved in the truancy program.

Nuts & bolts

- Financial report/FY07 budget
Action needed: Motion to approve \$500 for petty cash to pay for parent stipends in June, \$750 in July/August. (Joe/Gary)
- LCTS update: There were no questions on Jane's report
- Coordinator's report: Dawn passed out a list of partner organizations and in-kind contributions of staff and administrative time. Approximate totals were 930 hours of staff time, 280.5 hours of administrator time, and 217.5 hours of parent volunteer time. Thanks for your contributions! As a follow-up to a request from last meeting, Dawn distributed a chart showing that in the past four weeks, she spent nearly 39 hours on administrative duties, 53.5 hours on supporting work groups and boards, and 48 hours on activities related to collaboration.

- The group decided not to take action on a request from Alex Ishaug regarding Truancy Intervention Program funding. Summer school funding will be paid out of the FY08 budget beginning July 1.

Other

- Report from **MACMH conference**: Lanette noted that the conference was really interesting and useful. Carolyn reminded the group that the Clay County Joint Powers Collaborative board signed off on the MnSIC interagency agreement. The state may require us to revise it this year. The IIIP work group will work on it. MACMH is also branching out to infant (birth – 3) mental health.
- Gary explained the idea he came up with for **Grants Committee** that would look at grant possibilities to see which would fit the Collaborative. Shelley mentioned a couple of grant possibilities for reentry, substance abuse prevention, and Reclaiming Futures from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Joe reminded us that DMF could be approached as a funding source. Joyce said it's her impression that they are looking more at mental health. For now, just send grants that you run across that seem to apply to the work of the Collaborative to Dawn.
- Lanette and Dawn reported that Shawn Ginther (MSUM) recommended to the Planning & Evaluation committee that we begin to document the ways in which we collaborate, both formally and informally. Lanette noted that family needs drive the formal collaboration that occurs on the work groups. We can track informal collaboration in many ways, by who's impacted, members of other partner organizations you talk to on a regular basis. Formal collaboration is documented in minutes and program updates, partnership payments, in-kind contributions from organizations. People suggested specifically mentioning collaboration in the program updates and standardize collection of these examples by devising a form to be filled out at meetings either as a group or individually.
- Annual meeting: September 19, 4 – 5 p.m. Place to be announced.
- Announcements:
 - “Breakfast on the Farm” will be June 2 at Peterman Seed Farm.
 - Those who missed the Fargo Marathon can run in the Hawley 5K on June 9.
 - REACH Variety Show will be June 7.
 - REACH Golf Scramble is June 27.
 - Joyce has resigned from REACH so this will be her last meeting.

Next meeting: September 26, 3:30 at Churches (or some other place)

The group decided to meet the fourth Wednesday at 3:30 next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Tommerdahl
Collaborative Coordinator