

Clay County Collaborative Administrative Group Minutes

*Wednesday, 24 October 2007 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. West Central Regional Juvenile Center
Conference Room, 919 8th Ave. N., Moorhead*

In attendance: Mark Altenburg (Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters), Donna Atherton (The Arc of West Central Minnesota), 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), Lanette Krinsky (Children's Mental Health LAC), Bernie Lipp (Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton ISD #2164), Kathy McKay (Clay County Public Health), Larry Nybladh (Moorhead ISD #152), Rhonda Porter (Clay County Social Services), Barry Steen (West Central Regional Juvenile Center), Carolyn Strnad (IIIP work group), Sandi Zaleski (The Village Family Service Center), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Carolyn welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 9/26/07 were unanimously approved. (Shelley/Lanette). Today's agenda was approved with one change – our scheduled guests from Families Anonymous were unable to attend the meeting today. (Kathy/Sandi).

Nuts & bolts

- ✦ *Financial report/FY08 budget:* Dawn confirmed in answer to Shelley's question from last month that the FY07 budget overrun in Reentry was due to the fact that the State grant was a on a two-year cycle. Starting next month, Dawn will start distributing the monthly income/expenses report.
A motion to approve \$750 in October/November for petty cash to pay for parent stipends passed unanimously. (Bernie/Larry)
- ✦ *LCTS update:* Dawn conveyed an update from Jane that she has no new information to add on the repayment or MA rule changes. Dawn and Jane will revise a letter that John Dinsmore is writing so that it fits collaboratives and send it out to partners. Partners can give feedback and Dawn will send the letter on behalf of the Collaborative and partners could revise the letter and submit it on their own letterhead.
- ✦ *Coordinator's report*
 - ✦ Shelley gave a brief update on the Reentry Program – their next advisory group meeting will be next Thursday.
 - ✦ Sandi reported that the MDE grant the Truancy program applied for was turned down.
 - ✦ Lanette reported that the Halloween dance sponsored by the School-Age Disability work group was attended by 39 children and 1-2 adults per child. The event segued into the Arc Dance that was attended by 150 people. Carolyn reported that thirty-five parents have registered for the parent forum that will be held on Saturday.

Discussion

- A. *Funding cuts:* The group broke into sector groups to discuss budget scenarios.
School: thought we should stay with Scenario 1, set up a matrix of what we want to keep going; maintain the ones that best fit the matrix. Set up an evaluation tool so that we can tell where the overlap is. We need to take a look at running good programs (some of the won't retain high quality if they're underfunded but not cut entirely). Find other ways to support programs so that they work the best for all.
Non-profits: Scenario 1 made the most sense. Encourage collaboration, researching grants, being innovative, sunsetting programs will drive people to be more collaborative. There may be space for third party billing with Children's Mental Health. Even if we eliminate all the

small programs, we still don't have \$200,000. There was a feeling that if we take longer to use the money, we may lose willingness to collaborate.

County: considered Scenario 2. They looked at cutting coordinator contracts and cut all funding to programs except the four big programs (TIP, RSP, RJ, CMH); make sure the remaining fund balance would not fall below \$300,000 to cover the possible MA payback.

Parents: Are more interested in services. Scenario 2 would be best because it gives us a 3-year time frame to look for other funding. We need to look at the impact programs are having on families. When you cut services, you will impact the ability of families to cope with their situations. It's hard to measure impact on families – how to keep everyone in the same house, safe and healthy. Carolyn has talked to some people about upcoming SAMHSA grants and has learned that a decent amount of money will be forthcoming from DHS – and that the state expects to grant a good portion of it to greater Minnesota.

Dawn will speak with program coordinators to get a feel for how many kids/families are involved in multiple Collaborative programs before the next Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting. PEC will discuss the issue at their next meeting and make a recommendation to this group.

- B. *Grant-writing roundtable:* Mark floated the idea of having a group get together monthly to talk about grant-writing. PEC has checked with various area foundations (FM Area Foundation, Bremer, Dakota Medical Foundation, West Central Initiative, United Way).

Other

- **Audit:** Dawn has submitted the last piece of information to Brian Stavenger, our auditor. We have received a bill for part of the auditor.

Sector representatives (Carolyn, Mark, Rhonda, Steve) met following adjournment and selected Rhonda as chair and Steve as vice-chair.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 28, 3:30 at Churches United for the Homeless (1900 1st Ave. N., Moorhead)

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Tommerdahl
Collaborative Coordinator