

Clay County Collaborative Administrative Group Minutes

Wednesday, 27 August 2008 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Probstfield Center for Education, room 202, Moorehad

In attendance: Mark Altenburg (Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters), Terry Atherton (The Arc of West Central Minnesota), Randy Bruer (Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton ISD #2164), Lanette Krinsky (Children's Mental Health LAC), Lynne Kovash (Moorhead ISD #152), Scott Loeslie (Barnesville ISD #146), Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Coop), Joe Pederson (Lakes and Prairie Community Action), Rhonda Porter (Clay County Social Services), Carolyn Strnad (IIIP work group), Lori Ward (Lakes and Prairie Community Action), Sandi Zaleski (The Village Family Service Center), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Rhonda welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 4/16/08 meeting were unanimously approved. (Joe/Lanette). Today's agenda was unanimously approved. (Joe/Mark)

Nuts & bolts

✦ **Financial report/FY08 budget**

The updated FY08 budget as presented includes nearly all of the expenses for the fiscal year. Dawn will add final numbers and send out the final figures. She will then prepare the FY09 budget which will include the unspent funds that will carry over for each work group.

Motion to approve \$750 in September and \$750 in October for petty cash to pay for parent stipends passed unanimously. (Mark/Terry)

Rhonda informed the group that the County has received a grant for respite (\$50,000/year) starting July 1, 2007. She will work with Dawn to pay back the funds the CMH work group expended in FY08.

✦ **LCTS report**

- *LCTS payback:* Rhonda filled the group in about what has happened since our last meeting in April. She reported that the Board of Directors at their June meeting decided to send a letter to all of the superintendents and school board chairs making them aware of the levy option that was part of a bill that passed at the very end of the legislative session. In the meantime Rhonda has received a bill for what the Collaborative owes and was asked to contact DHS and negotiate a payment agreement. The next step is that DHS will send a payment agreement before the first payment is made.
- Randy explained the *levy option* based on the meeting of the superintendents. After talking with George Holt (MDE) he learned that there isn't a policy at the state level about whether all school districts in an affected county have to levy or not. Randy and Lynne have returned their letters to MDE indicating that they would levy. They did this in order to buy time until their boards decide whether or not to levy. Dawn reported that Ulen-Hitterdal's school board voted not to levy at their August 18 meeting. Scott indicated that his school board would likely not choose to levy.

✦ **Coordinator's report:** Sandi gave some more information about the AT&T school for success grant the Village has applied for for the Truancy program. The Truancy program will be at full staffing for the fall. In the coming year they will make an effort to track data and outcomes more carefully in order to have a better chance of getting outside funding.

Discussion

- Carolyn walked the group through the *revised interagency agreement* that the IIIP work group has updated in the past few months. The major change from the previous agreement was that there

used to be a IIP coordinator. *A motion to approve the revised agreement passed unanimously.* (Lynne/Randy) Rhonda will sign four copies and Dawn will send an original to each of the special ed directors (Jill, Norma, Shannon) and keep an original in the IIP file. She will also post a copy on the Collaborative's website.

- Rhonda introduced the discussion of how to use the *questions about the future* of the Collaborative with a summary of the discussion at the Board of Directors meeting. The goal of the questions is help stakeholders begin to think about how they as partners can continue to address client needs if/when the Collaborative is no longer able to fund existing programs. A few people thought that the questions were too broad - that their staff would name basic needs like food, transportation, housing/heat as top issues facing their clients. Others felt that by identifying those basic needs, we would open up areas which the Collaborative currently does not address. Other topics of discussion included reducing stigma in areas such as mental health and poverty and other sources of funding the Collaborative structure (perhaps United Way or DMF?) This group charged the Planning and Evaluation Committee to discuss how to proceed and report back at the October 22 meeting.
- Opportunities for collaboration:
 - Randy talked about his work with the Council of Collaboratives in northwest Minnesota. He is excited to get some grant-writing going in Clay County.
 - Scott came from a district and a collaborative where they chose to spend their money on school-based mental health coordinators for each school.
 - Rhonda reported that CCSS (along with Otter Tail and Wilkin) has received a three-year grant from DHS to provide crisis mobile services for children. CCSS will also be participating in a Casey Family Foundation Breakthrough Collaborative Series research and training program on timely permanency through reunification.
 - Terry reported that the Arc's next project is training caregivers on how to work with their clients on voting. It will be held September 10 at Heartland. PEPP will also be involved. Freedom is sponsoring a voting workshop at HHIC on September 30.
 - Lynne reported that there are many programs going in Moorhead Public Schools.
 - Mark said REACH is going to start offering psych med management again. Their food shelf usage increased 25% in the last quarter. They want to reduce family stress about fulfilling basic needs before they see a rise in domestic violence cases and divorce.
 - Lori reported an increase in families seeking assistance in their emergency programs.
 - Pam informed the group that Lakes Country is represented on many Collaboratives in their catchment area. Part of her job is searching for grants and she informs their partners of these opportunities. Josh Nelson is the new education manager at Lakes Country. They've also hired a career counselor who will be working with school districts. Call Jeremy or Josh for more information. Pam works with cities, counties and non-profits.
 - Sandi informed the group that Yolanda Redding is working with reentry families as part of their family strengthening grant. The Village is going to respond to an RFP that would train supervisors on evidence-based practices so that they could better supervise the providers who do the evidence-based practices. The Village will offer a social skills group in October and a parenting group in September. There will also be an anger management group sometime this fall.
 - Lanette has been working on planning the PEC grant-writing workshop and on the grant team for Wraparound.
 - Carolyn announced that Julia K. Dinsmore is coming back to Moorhead September 22 – 26 to work with kids on spoken word poetry. She also shared her background both as a parent of children with special needs and as a parent representative on the Collaborative.

- Joe talked about the four initiatives Lakes and Prairies has going:
 - Food Support: He would like to meet with superintendents and elementary school principals in September.
 - Application agent for MN public medical programs: L&P staff can assist families in filling out the applications. Once the families are approved, they are sent on to Social Services.
 - Mortgage foreclosure counseling: Gary Groberg is working half-time in this position. Gary will meet with families to help them explore options and next steps. Beginning to work with families before a crisis point is reached is key.
 - Group work camp will come to the area again next summer (July 26 to August 1). This time they will be based at Hawley High School and can serve families (elderly, disabled, low-income) within a 30-mile radius from Hawley. The work camp provides all materials and labor. L&P are taking applications right now.

Everyone is invited to attend the annual meeting of the Governance Board which will be held on Wednesday, September 24 at 3:30 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead. The next meeting of the Administrative Group will be October 22 at 3:30 p.m. – location to be determined. Let Dawn know if you would like to provide the meeting space!

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Tommerdahl
Collaborative Coordinator