

Clay County Collaborative Administrative Group Minutes

Wednesday, 28 January 2009 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Law Enforcement Center, 915 9th Ave N.,
Moorhead

In attendance: Mark Altenburg (Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters), Bessie Askew (Churches United for the Homeless), Terry Atherton (The Arc of West Central Minnesota), Donna Baker (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Randy Bruer (Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton ISD #2164), Shelley Ford (Clay County Family Court/MN Dept. of Corrections), Lanette Krinsky (Children's Mental Health LAC), Sarah Krinsky (distinguished guest), Kathy McKay (Clay County Public Health), Barry Nelson (Metro Youth Partnership), Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Coop), Jane Patrick (LCTS Coordinator), Joe Pederson (Lakes and Prairie Community Action), Rhonda Porter (Clay County Social Services), Jose Sanchez (The Village Family Service Center), Carolyn Strnad (IIIP work group), Lori Ward (Lakes and Prairie Community Action), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator) *Special guest: Jill Wenger, Restorative Justice Program.*

Mark welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes to approve the 12/17/08 meeting passed unanimously. (Barry/Joe) Today's agenda was unanimously approved. (Bill/Kathy)

Jill Wenger gave an overview of the Restorative Justice Program which is housed in the Clay County Sheriff's Department. The average age of youth involved is 15. Usually cases are a first offence, petty misdemeanors up to felonies; most cases are diversion (so they don't go to court). The program offers two types of processes: victim/offender conferencing and community conferencing. In victim/offender conferencing, offenders and their supporters meet with victims and their supporters to come up with a plan for restitution. Community conferencing is used with "victimless" crimes, like driving around an extended school bus arm. Jill spoke to how hard it is for offenders to look victims in the eye and take responsibility for their actions – often it is harder to do than taking consequences from a judge. If an offender doesn't follow through with the contract he/she has agreed to, the case is referred back to wherever it came from for consequences. Every case is handled individually so that the agreement is tailored to the crime, the offender and the victim.

Nuts & bolts

✦ *Financial report/FY09 budget:*

- *Audit* – Due to additional accounting rules, the cost of the FY08 audit was \$7000, \$2000 more than we'd budgeted. The group discussed the necessity of having an audit. Dawn reported that there has been some email discussion among Collaborative coordinators regarding audits; several others noted that since their fiscal hosts (the county) are audited, they don't feel that Collaboratives need a separate audit. Randy noted that the Council of Collaboratives in northwest Minnesota had an audit because of the number of grants that they received but the individual Collaboratives did not have audits. *A motion to discontinue audits in the future passed unanimously. (Joe/Lanette)*
- *MCIT liability insurance* – Jane reported that Otter Tail County has submitted a letter to MCIT saying that they don't have any more money and don't intend to continue their coverage. They are supposed to receive a reply by February 10 – Jane will keep us posted. We would have to send a letter signaling our intent to withdraw by August 1, 2009. We would then continue to pay premiums for 2010 and 2011 but we wouldn't receive a rebate.

✦ Jane walked through her *LCTS report*. She cautioned that time estimates for participants and recorders are rough and probably on the high side. She noted that the time study has to have at least one school district, probation and corrections in order to continue. She created the table in response to feedback she received from school staff in one district (although other entities expressed similar concerns). Rhonda and Shelley shared that they, too, have received negative

feedback when rules are changed. They also shared how they have managed such feedback. Jane will contact the district superintendent to discuss the feedback.

- ✦ To supplement Dawn's report, Joe talked about
 - the latest stimulus package (see David Obey's website for more information: <http://www.obey.house.gov>).
 - Details of the governor's budget proposal can be found at Minnesota Management & Budget: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/>
 - Joe passed out the executive summary from the Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020 and a program from the launch event that was held at St. Joe's last Wednesday. He highlighted the recommendations. See <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/FinalReport.pdf> for the executive summary.
 - See also the Minnesota Budget Project report "The Lost Decade." (<http://www.mncn.org/bp/mnbudget.htm>)
- A long discussion ensued about the role of private, non-profit and public partners in ending poverty.

Discussion

- ✦ Further discussion on strategic planning
 - The group discussed the proposal from Deb Hengel (Grant County) to facilitate. *A motion to accept the proposal from Deb passed unanimously. (Lanette/Shelley)*
 - That means that our strategic planning will take place on April 22, 9 a.m. – noon. Dawn will make arrangements for a space.
 - The group discussed the proposal on *process* from the Planning and Evaluation work group:
 - Invite the facilitator to come to the P & E work group meeting in February or March.
 - *Structure:* Charge P & E plus someone representing the county and someone representing the schools. Would the Administrative Group give this smaller group the authority to act on behalf of the Collaborative?

A motion to give P&E the authority to work with Deb to outline our strategic planning time passed unanimously. (Rhonda/Randy)
 - The group discussed the question of who should write the final report. There was a general feeling that Deb (or perhaps Deb and Dawn) should do it. We can discuss this more next time.
 - Due to time constraints, a decision on the question from the Children's Mental Health work group was deferred to next month: If work groups have not spent all of the funds they have been allocated for FY09 and FY10, can they carry unexpended funds over into FY11?

Other

- ✦ We ran out of time to share opportunities for collaboration. If you have anything for the group, please send it to Dawn and she will send it out.

A motion to adjourn passed unanimously. (Rhonda/Shelley)

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 3:30 – 5 p.m., host: West Central Regional Juvenile Center, 919 8th Ave. N., 2nd floor

Meeting dates for the remainder of FY09:

March 25 – Hawley?	April 22 or 29 – or skip because of strategic planning?
May 27 – Barnesville?	June 24

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Tommerdahl, Collaborative Coordinator