

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 2 September 2008

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Family Services Center, Room 2

In attendance: Carol Beckstrom (Clay County Social Services), Shawna Croaker (CMH Coordinator for Cass-Clay), Monica Engelstad (Access), Karla Flisk (Churches United for the Homeless), Gerald Gomez (Prairie St. John's), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Ron Odden (Access of the Red River Valley), Barb Schaub (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Karissa Schmoll (The Village), Ruth Smith (REACH), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Ron welcomed the group. Minutes from the 8/05/08 meeting were unanimously approved. (Shawna/Lanette) No changes were made to today's agenda.

Updates

- **CMH coordinator** (Shawna): CMH summit invitation went out last week. Please RSVP. Shawna and Gina wrote a small grant to have hand-held PDAs to do ASQ in physicians' offices. Shawna would meet with people whose children had elevated scores to talk over options. Licensing costs are \$99/PDA for ASQ. People from Douglas County will present on their pilot project. Let Shawna know if you'd like "half a child" postcards.
- **Other**
 - Child Trauma with Dr. Anne Gearity, Fergus Falls (evening of 10/2 for parents and 10/3 all day for professionals)
 - Mental Health Association of Minnesota Legislative forum (9/16) at Lakeland, 1 – 3 p.m.

FY09 work plan

- *Respite:*
 - Carol B. gave an update on the Rule 79 respite grant. Social Services has to have an open case on each family that would access respite and flex. The state requires certain outcomes, etc. for each child who receives the money. Diane Kluck (CCSS) will be handling the applications process to open the case and making sure there is a CASII in place. Carol will meet with Rule 79 case managers to talk about the process with them.
 - Update policy on accessing respite for younger kids: After some discussion of the budget, it was decided that the money allocated to crisis services should be used to pay for respite for young children. Dawn will inform Colleen at Head Start and Miriam at Public Health.
- *Flex*
 - Distributed so far in FY09: \$2770 spent in August; \$5360 spent so far this FY.
- *Churches case worker:* Ron reported that he has submitted a request for funding to the Alex Stern Foundation. Karla reported that the family rooms are full. Kids have gone to their first day of school. Fourteen children are living in the family rooms at the time. One family has nine members and is occupying two rooms. Karla didn't get leftover backpacks from the United Way this year. When/if she runs out of school supplies, she should let Carol B. know so the county can do some kind of fundraiser. Karla reported that the line extends out the

door for meals at Churches. They sometimes feed in excess of 150 people. The executive director is out for several weeks for medical reasons.

- Carol gave an update on the *Mobile Crisis grant*: A coordinator has been hired. There will soon be a meeting with Becker and Otter Tail to finalize the model. The coordinator's next job will be to recruit professionals and practitioners from all the agencies. Then there will be training to make sure everyone's on the same page.
- Ruth gave an update on the *REACH project*. Ruth announced an upcoming fundraiser for the food pantry – a bike ride from Roadhouse at Cormorant and around lake country. People who don't ride can sponsor a rider. Sixty-three kids received school supplies (up from last year). Ruth also received leftover backpacks from United Way. Only seven children received counseling over the summer, but food pantry use is way up (91 families and 103 children). Ruth gave out 1 Salvation Army voucher and Thrift Store vouchers were given to 14 families.
- *Follow Along Program* (Miriam): no update.
- How to raise awareness about mental-health related issues among future educators (Ann): no update.
- Other
 - Attachment series this year on Autism: no news since last month.
 - Mental Health Association of Minnesota Legislative forum (9/16) at Lakeland, 1 – 3 p.m.
Hosts: Lanette, Shawna; arrive at 12:30 to make sure room is set up (chairs only), buy cookies. Carolyn has juice/cups for juice. We can get coffee from Lakeland.
 - Julia K. Dinsmore will return to Moorhead to work with youth the week of September 22.
 - FASD workshop, Courtyard by Marriott (10/29)
 - Motion to accept the budget as proposed (Barb/Carol).
 - Fee was set at \$35. Parent Involvement Committee will provide scholarships for up to fifteen parents who are raising children with FASD.
 - Childcare at Churches United – Karla will talk to Durk (Thompson, executive director) before the next meeting. She needs some particulars about Great Beginnings so she'll call Renee (Carolyn's sister who works there). We were talking about 2 slots, 1 day a week. Children would have to have proof of immunization. Parents would have to sign them in and give a contact number. We'd have to figure out how to pay for it.

Other

- The group approved the FY08 work group report.
- They budget of the FY09 work plan was revised in light of the carryover from FY08. A motion to move \$7500 from crisis services to respite (for young children) and \$10,000 from respite to the expansion of the Follow Along Program passed unanimously. (Carolyn/Carol) Dawn will notify Head Start and Public Health that this money will be available. Respite providers will need to register with the County and have a minimal background check run, etc.
- Carol reported that it will be a tough budget year in 2009. MH is still bound by the Maintenance of Effort so that's a good thing.

Next meeting: October 7, meeting room 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Tommerdahl, Collaborative Coordinator