

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 7 October 2008

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Family Services Center, Room 7

In attendance: Liz Bjur (Clay County Public Health), Shawna Croaker (CMH Coordinator for Cass-Clay), Miriam Dakutak (Clay County Public Health), Gerald Gomez (Prairie St. John's), Randy Huss (Clay County Probation), Deb Jendro (ND Federation of Families), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Kristin Phillips (Head Start /Lakes and Prairies Community Action), Barb Schaub (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Jill Skarvold (Moorhead Area Public Schools), Ruth Smith (REACH), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Meeting chair Carolyn Strnad welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 9/02/08 meeting were unanimously approved. (Shawna/Barb) There were no changes to today's agenda.

Updates

- Shawna reported that the CMH summit, held two weeks ago today, was attended by about fifty people. People from Douglas County gave a presentation about the hand-held Etablet they use in screening children for mental health at their medical visits. Shawna will be putting out the quarterly newsletter in the coming weeks – let her know if you have any ideas for articles or events. Also send her information on any trainings, etc. for the website. She reminded the group of Dr. Twogood's training on early childhood brain development October 18, 2 – 4 p.m. at the Fargodome. There is no charge for this event. The Robert Wood Johnson grant proposal is due November 4.
- **Other:**
 - Dawn passed out information on upcoming events sponsored by Collaborative work groups:
 - October 22: Grant-writing on budgets
 - October 29: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by Lynne Frigaard
 - November 21: Lessons from the Field (ITV series) on Autism
 - **Follow Along Program:** Miriam reported that Public Health was glad to get the funding for the older children. They haven't started enrolling children yet
 - Deb informed the group that the Federation's annual meeting will be October 21 at 7 p.m. at 1104 2nd Ave. S., Fargo. Keynote speaker Chris Poyzer will talk about the training he attended on the explosive child.
 - YIPA and Prairie are co-sponsoring a workshop on October 21 on
 - Carolyn reported that the MH Parity Bill finally passed! There's a one-year moratorium on implementing the bill to let insurance companies figure out how they're going to do it.

FY09 work plan

- *Respite:*
 - Rule 79 respite grant: No update because Carol B. wasn't here
 - Respite for younger kids: Dawn met with Colleen and Kristin at Head Start to review the process HS used last year. It will remain the same except now Colleen will send the bills from childcare providers to the Collaborative instead of to Lakeland. Public

Health will confer with Head Start and perhaps begin to offer respite to families they work with as well.

- Dawn received a bill for respite that was refused by the County because the parent (not the children) have Rule 79 case management. The old respite approval team had approved the family for respite. After some discussion, a *motion to pay \$80 for the family passed unanimously*. (Shawna/Carolyn) Carolyn will call Pat Boyer to find out how many adults with Rule 79 case management have children who might benefit from respite.
- *Flex*
 - About \$1800 has been spent since last time. Dawn reported that the County has decided to handle the flex funds for children eligible for Rule 79 case management. Carol has met with Rule 79 case managers.
- *Churches case worker*: Karla was unable to attend the meeting, but she let Dawn know that she has eight families instead of six at the moment.
- Ruth gave an update on the *REACH project*: 16 children received counseling; 89 families, including 96 children used the food pantry; 4 Salvation Army vouchers and 20 thrift store vouchers were distributed. The biker fundraiser was not as well attended as last year because of a competing ride at the same time. They will work together with the other group next year. Despite low attendance, the event raised \$1400 for the food pantry. Ruth reminded everyone that people can refer rural Clay County families to REACH if they need Thanksgiving or Christmas food baskets or Christmas gifts. Spread the word!
- *Follow Along Program*: see above
- How to raise awareness about mental-health related issues among future educators: Discussion was short, but Shawna said she had some resources to share. Kristin noted that Head Start welcomes volunteers – Ann can contact her if she needs classroom settings for her students..
- Other
 - *Lessons from the field series* this year on Autism – scheduled for November 21 (Courthouse, meeting room B) and April 14 (FSC, ITV room,), both 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - *Mental Health Association of Minnesota Legislative forum (9/16)* at Lakeland; Fifty people attended – the room was full. Lakeland also hooked up to their site in Fergus Falls. Carolyn will find out from Kathy how they're going to use the information they collected.
 - *Julia K. Dinsmore (September 22 – 26)*
 - Barb reported that the experience at the Outreach Center was fabulous for the kids. Having the two young adults along was a highlight. The poetry that the kids shared was really moving. Deb and Pete (MYP) have been working on finding a place for the kids to present their poetry (possibly the Red Raven in Fargo). They are able to use it on Thursday evenings. They have scheduled a conference call with Julia tomorrow to get ideas on how to sustain the movement.
 - *A motion to pay some of Julia's expenses (Total = \$725.20: hotel – 409.30, mileage – 315.90) from training budget line passed unanimously.* (Carolyn/Jill)
 - *FASD workshop*: 10 registrations as of 10/1/08; Jill will send a list of the Moorhead school staff who will be attending to Dawn.

- The group decided to have resource tables at the back of the room (FASD-related information and/or services for families raising children with FASD). Dawn will get the word out.
- Childcare at Churches United: postponed until next month

4. **Other**

- The group discussed how to handle a bill from REACH for \$2689.63 for expenses that were underbilled in FY08. *A motion to pay the bill from REACH's FY09 allocation passed unanimously. (Barb/Shawna)* The group decided that closer to the end of the FY when we see how money's going, they will look at the matter again and decide whether or not to allow for an overrun in FY09.
- Carolyn suggested inviting someone from Moorhead PD who attended Barbara Schneider training and new crisis mobile grant coordinator. Dawn will contact Nancy Taralson to find out who was involved.
- Carolyn informed the group that CTIC is doing a transition expo next Monday night during conferences at Moorhead High.

Next meeting: November 4, meeting room 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Tommerdahl

Collaborative Coordinator