

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 4 November 2008

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Family Services Center, Room 7

In attendance: Carol Beckstrom (Clay County Social Services), Liz Bjur (Clay County Public Health), Shawna Croaker (CMH Coordinator for Cass-Clay), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Michelle Mullikin (Lakeland Mental Health), Ron Odden (Access of the Red River Valley), Barb Schaub (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Beth Wallmann-Zimmerman (Lakeland Mental Health), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator), Sgt. Deric Swenson (Moorhead Police Department)

Ron welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 10/07/08 meeting were unanimously approved. (Lanette/Barb). There were no changes to today's agenda.

Sgt. Deric Swenson, Moorhead Police Department, joined us to update us on the Barbara Schneider Foundation crisis intervention team training that was held in Moorhead in May. He was formerly an EMT, DARE officer and is a SWAT team negotiator. The training was excellent and included lots of hands-on negotiator training with actors. People from local agencies came in to talk to participants about what they do so that officers would be more familiar with local resources. The officers got to tour facilities like Prairie. There was time to discuss interactions between consumers and officers from both sides. They would like to offer the training again in the spring for other sergeants. Their long-term goal is to have one trained CIT officer on each shift. Chief Ebinger came from Little Rock where he was the head of the crisis intervention team. The CIT officers will be sent out in tandem with the beat officers on cases where there appears to be mental health issues. Security staff from MSUM and MSCTC have expressed an interest in attending the training.

Updates

- Beth updated the group on the Children's Mobile Crisis Team. The group is still in the planning stage. The next informational meeting for local agencies will be held November 24. A lot of recruiting and training still needs to be done before the teams can begin taking calls from the crisis line (FirstLink). If the situation warrants crisis team intervention, the FirstLink volunteer will call the MH professional who will further assess the situation and decide to dispatch the team of MH practitioners.
- Shawna (CMH coordinator) reported that Dr. Twogood's presentation was very well-received. She's finishing up the Robert Wood Johnson grant (phone/email consultation plus pilot project for early screening). DMF would provide the grant match. Wraparound/Family Group Decision-Making and Children's Crisis Mobile team will be highlighted along with a personal story

FY09 work plan

Respite:

- Carol updated the group on the *Rule 79 respite grant*. DHS just held a training last week – they still haven't figured out the fiscal reporting. Carol has developed a form which will be sent out to everyone once it has been approved by DHS. The grant covers kids with MH diagnosis but not for their siblings.
- *Respite for younger kids:* none dispersed yet

- *Respite for children of parents who have Rule 79 case management:* Carolyn discussed the issue with Pat Boyer. Flex funds are available for adults which are used mostly for utility bills, etc. She didn't recall the families asking for flex funds for respite.

Flex

- Distributed since last meeting: \$1439
- Distributed so far in FY09: \$7860

Churches case worker: Karla was unable to attend the meeting, but she sent this report via email: "The number of families I Case Managed has changed. We have two smaller rooms that can house 1 parent and 1 child, so this puts me at having eight families instead of 6. We started this about a month ago and those two smaller rooms have been filled with single parents ever since. I should have two families moving out into apartments from November 1st-5th. We continue to have multiple calls each day for available family rooms and I think once the weather does change this will continue to increase."

In addition Ron reported that one position has been cut and Churches is doing deficit spending. He has a proposal out to a foundation in the Cities.

REACH project: No report at the meeting, but Ruth sent the following via email: 13 children were seen for counseling, 9 were seen at Day Treatment by counselor at Hawley School, 93 food pantry families (101 kids), Salvation Army vouchers-2, Thrift store vouchers-33.

****If anyone is working with a rural Clay County family and would like to refer them to our Thanksgiving and Christmas food/gift basket program please talk to Ruth first.***

Follow Along Program: Liz reported that a letter will be sent to parents of children involved in the program at age 3 informing them that the program will continue. They will increase the emphasis on social-emotional. They are applying for matching funds.

There was no discussion on *how to raise awareness about mental-health related issues among future educators.*

Other

- Dawn reported that eighteen people had registered as of October 30 for the Attachment 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. She reminded the group that the Arc is sponsoring an Autism panel in the evening of November 20th.
- Lanette and Shawna talked a bit about the FASD workshop. They thought it was really good – a good crowd. Dawn will send the final budget as soon as the bills and all registration fees have been paid.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Tommerdahl

Collaborative Coordinator