

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Family Services Center, Room 7

In attendance: Carol Beckstrom (Clay County Social Services), Liz Bjur (Clay County Public Health), Karla Flisk (Churches United for the Homeless), Randy Huss (Clay County Probation), Deb Jendro (ND Federation of Families), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Michelle Mullikin (Lakeland Mental Health), Ron Odden (Access of the Red River Valley), Barb Schaub (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Jill Skarvold (Moorhead ISD #152), Ruth Smith (REACH), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Beth Wallman-Zimmerman (Lakeland Mental Health), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Ron welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 11/04/08 meeting were unanimously approved. (Ron/Barb) No changes were made to today's agenda.

Updates

- There was no report from the DMF CMH coordinator today.
- Children's Mobile Crisis Team (Beth reported that the first meeting was held on November 24. Twofold purpose – to find out who wanted to be on an advisory group and secondly to get providers to sign up. Plan is to have one MH professional oversee 3 teams of practitioners – one per county. People would be on call for a week and would be on call every 4 – 6 weeks. Carolyn said that the State Advisory group will have a presentation on crisis response teams at their upcoming meeting. Lakeland hopes to have the program up and running by March so that means training will start in January. A small pilot might start prior to March 1. The Crisis De-escalation Hotline is still in service through December 31 for families who receive Rule 79 case management. The work group discussed using 211 as the first call – 211 rings to different numbers in MN and in ND (ND goes to FirstLink). Many people in MN have 701 cell phone numbers – the group wondered where the call would go. Beth will experiment.

FY09 work plan

- *Brown Bags:* Decide next month – combine with Bridge to Benefits, Lakes & Prairies tax sites (earned income tax credit, etc.), and Funding Maze (Sue Ewy presenting for the Arc on February 5).
- *Respite:*
 - Carol B. gave an update on the Rule 79 respite grant. Social Services has received a spreadsheet from DHS to use for data tracking. A meeting will be held on December 9 to discuss how to recruit foster families to provide respite. Trainings for foster families and childcare providers will be held! The County will be able to reimburse the Collaborative for respite and flex provided for children with Rule 79 in FY08. Carol would like to have a discussion at some time about creative ways for children to participate in community activities. Gina Nolte (Public Health) has offered to convene a group to discuss transportation barriers.
 - Respite for younger kids: none dispersed yet
- *Flex*
 - Distributed since last meeting: \$1993
 - Distributed so far in FY09: \$9853.00 (\$4035.80 for children under 9, \$5817.20 for children 9 and up)

- *Churches case worker*: Residency in shelters around town are down in the past two weeks – perhaps due to holiday season, lack of extended runs of cold days, etc. There are only nine children at Churches at the moment. Three family rooms are open. There will be a community Christmas party at the shelter on December 17 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. with music, a visit from Santa, gifts for kids, treats.
- *REACH project*: Ruth reported that the Food pantry has been busy - seventy Thanksgiving baskets were distributed. December 22 is the date for Christmas basket distribution. Ten children were seen for counseling in November and 77 families (86 children) used the food pantry. Ruth distributed 2 Salvation Army vouchers and 12 thrift store vouchers. Food pantry use is actually down from last year at this time.
- *Follow Along Program*: Liz reported that letters will go out to families explaining that children can continue until age 5. Extra social-emotional questionnaires will be added at ages 6 and 18 months.
- Other
 - *Attachment series*: Remaining dates: February 12 (Courthouse, room B), April 14 (ITV room, FSC), May 13 (ITV room, FSC); all sessions from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; register online at cmh.umn.edu. Jill asked if they are archived – Dawn will find out and let the group know. (Following the meeting, Dawn received the following email from Ellen Lepinski at the Center for Excellence in Children’s Mental Health on this issue:
*We have had links up on our web-site to past workshops but the University is in transition now with server issues and so they are not available at the moment. However, past ones should be available again in the near future. We will be putting up this year's links using the new system and the link for the Nov. one should be up in December sometime. Our URL is: <http://cmh.umn.edu>
 The old Lessons from the Field workshops are found under the Education/Training heading on the left side-bar.
 Sometimes the most fail proof method for an in-service is to buy the DVD for \$25. I am attaching an order form in case helpful. The only workshops available either on-line or by DVD are ones where we have permission from the presenters to make the recording.....so not all workshops will be available this way, but the majority are.)*

Other

- Preliminary thoughts on FY10 work plan – discuss more next time
- The group discussed the DHS Early Childhood Mental Health grant rfp and came up with the following ideas:
 - Cross-training for multi-disciplinary teams (school, community, home)
 - Peer mentors (parents)
 - Training/coaching for childcare providers, early childhood teachers, parents, etc.
 - Create a therapeutic team (family, school, MH) to do the diagnosis with CTSS services provided by others (e.g. behavioral aides). Do a pilot for 10 – 15 children. Focus on creating the infrastructure.
 - Smaller group including CTSS agencies (Access, Solutions, Lakeland, The Village, LSS), Head Start, school, parents.
 - A smaller group will meet either next Thursday at 9 a.m. or Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: January 6, meeting room 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Tommerdahl, Collaborative Coordinator