

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 6 January 2009

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), Shawna Croaker (CMH Coordinator for Cass-Clay), Karla Flisk (Churches United for the Homeless), 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), Ruth Smith (REACH), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Beth Wallman-Zimmerman (Lakeland Mental Health), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Ron welcomed the group. Minutes from 12/02/08 meeting were unanimously approved. (Lanette/Michelle) No changes were made to today's agenda.

Updates

- CMH coordinator: Shawna handed out copies of the fall newsletter. The advisory board is meeting next Tuesday. She will put together a committee to plan the CMH Fair and training series. Several people volunteered to work with her (Beth, Carolyn, Dawn, Lanette). Shawna will start updating the resource guide soon – let her know if you know of an agency that should be included. She should hear about the Robert Wood Johnson Grant on January 27.
- Children's Mobile Crisis Team: Beth reported that she and Jackie are preparing the training for mental health practitioners who might be interested in being on call on tools the team will use. The training will be offered in February – there is no commitment to be on call to attend. The training will answer questions people may have about their responsibility and the work involved if they do choose to be on call. Beth and Jackie will also work with case managers on updating crisis plans that are currently in place.
- Other
 - Book read Fridays, Jan. 9 and 23!!! Noon – 1 p.m., meeting room 1 at the Family Service Center.

FY09 work plan

- *Brown Bags:* Sue Ewy (MN Children with Special Health Needs/MN Department of Public Health) will present a session on "Navigating the Funding Maze" for professionals from 3 – 4:30 on Thursday, February 5 at Probstfield Center for Education in south Moorhead. Beginning at 1:15 that afternoon, someone from Lakes and Prairies will conduct a more general information session on financial resources such as earned income tax credit, food support and using the Bridge to Benefits website (www.bridgetobenefits.org). Both sessions are designed to make professionals aware of financial resources that may be available to the families they work with. Dawn will make up a flier and send it out by Friday.
- *Respite:*
 - Rule 79 respite grant: Carol reported that folders of information about the program have been provided to Rule 79 case managers. Collecting the data will be a challenge because it has to be done manually. Finding homes to provide formalized respite has been a challenge. A group of stakeholders have met to discuss how best to recruit foster families who might be hesitant to provide respite for children with mental

- health needs. Carol will bring more information next time. The waiting list for Rule 79 case management is small.
- Respite for younger kids: none dispersed since last meeting.
- *Flex*
 - Distributed since last meeting: \$180
 - Distributed so far in FY09: \$10,033.00 (\$4075.80 for children under 9, \$5957.20 for children 9 and up)
- *Churches case worker*: Karla reported that they were not very full until a couple of days before Christmas and then the rooms filled up. One family room is currently open. Right now there are eight children under age 3. A family of five with children over age 8 just secured housing. She noted that they often work with people who are just out of jail and their probation officers to help transition them. Carol noted that the waiting list for MA is long so people have to wait to get those services.
- *REACH project*: Ruth reported that December was busy with caring and sharing program. Eleven children received counseling. Sixty-nine families including 71 children used the food pantry (this is down from previous months). Ruth provided five Salvation Army vouchers and ten thrift store vouchers. Some of the Salvation Army vouchers were used to pay for heating bills. Eighty-one Christmas food baskets were distributed and 126 children received gifts. In addition a church in Hawley gave a donation to the food pantry but said it could also be used to provide assistance for heating if needed.
- *Follow Along Program*: Liz had no news.
- *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. If presenters give permission, sessions are archived and are available for viewing at any time – see the same website.

Other

- **FY10 work plan**: The group reviewed the current budget and the FY09 work plan. Jill suggested asking the Administrative Group to decide if work groups can carry over funds from FY10 to FY11. Lanette suggested cutting 15% from currently budgeted amounts to create the FY10 budget.
- **Collaborative strategic planning**: Ron suggested looking at the questions individually before the next meeting so that we can rate the top three things next time. We will also choose a representative to the strategic planning session.
- **The GRID returns!!** The group discussed services listed. Crisis mobile team could be all three depending on the situation. Dawn will move the diagnostic assessments and family therapy to the “secondary” column. She will add PCA and CADI for all ages under “tertiary” services. Change home visits from hospitals to PH because hospitals refer to PH.
- The group briefly discussed the Early Childhood Mental Health grant rfp from DHS. Dawn will submit a question about the likelihood of this funding being cut.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dawn Tommerdahl
 Collaborative Coordinator