

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 5 May 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), Gerald Gomez (Prairie St. John's), Randy Huss (Clay County Probation), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Michelle Mullikin (Lakeland Mental Health), Barb Schaub (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Beth Wallman-Zimmerman (Lakeland Mental Health), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Carol volunteered to chair the meeting. She welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 4/07/08 meeting were unanimously approved (Shawna/Beth). No changes were made to today's agenda and it was unanimously approved.

Updates

- Shawna gave the update on the **DMF CMH Initiative**.
 - The CMH Fair and training will take place this Thursday from 4:30 – 7:30. Parking at HHIC will be limited because of a dike in the parking lot. One hundred-fifty people have registered for the training session. Twenty-five children will need childcare. The session will be videotaped. It will be posted on the halfachild.com website. There will be a ½ hour break during the training so people can visit the booths. Look for LOTS of publicity this week! The *Forum* is running a good article on the front page of the Life section today. Shawna did a radio show this morning. There will be other radio shows tomorrow. The second training session is also full (160). About twenty-five spots are open for the third session. The plan is to have a bigger venue for the event next year.
 - The RWJ site visit went well. DMF added \$100,000 to the grant which will be matched to add an additional staff member in the third year. Shawna said RWJ were concerned about underserved populations and DMF was more concerned about serving the general population. They will find out if they got a grant on May 15.
- Beth gave an update on **Connecting Children First** (Children's Mobile Crisis Team): The stakeholder group met last Thursday. It was mainly an update since the last meeting. The Otter Tail pilot site had a dispatch. The team has already made changes to the process and paperwork based on feedback from the one call. The next training session on psychological first aid will be held on May 15. If they don't get more MH practitioners to volunteer to be on call, they will dispatch teams made up of 1 practitioner and 1 paraprofessional, as the adult crisis team does. DHS would like the adult and children's crisis teams to merge in order to better utilize resources. Beth is involved in the BCOW initiative's task groups to look at the issues surrounding such a merger. Liz noted that screens are covered by MA under Child & Teen Check up. Shawna added that maternal depression will also be covered starting in 2010 up to three times/year in the child's first year. The group discussed the lack of mental health screening in any primary care setting in our area even though they are reimbursable expenses.
- Lanette, Carolyn, Shawna, Gerald and Dawn gave an update on the **MACMH conference**. Carol reported that funds the state pays for MH screening goes back into children's mental health to pay for unmet MH needs.

FY09 work plan

- *Respite:*

- Rule 79 respite grant: Carol reported that the quarterly report will go in this afternoon. Lots of crisis plans for kids are in place. Both the respite and crisis grants have been extended through December. They're right on target for using the money. There's a good mix of formal respite and informal activities.
- Respite for younger kids: none dispersed since last meeting
- *Flex*
 - Distributed since last meeting: \$2709.25
 - Distributed so far in FY09: \$16,007.00 (\$5977.05 for children under 9, \$10,029.95 for children 9 and up)
- *Churches case worker*: Karla reported that 3 new families checked in last night so she was unable to attend today's meeting.
- *REACH project*: Ruth was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report. Children seen for counseling -19 Food Pantry families-84 (86 children) Easter Baskets distributed – 40 Motorcycle Run fundraiser-June 6th at 10:00 a.m
- *Follow Along Program*: Liz reported that they're doing more outreach to catch 3 – 4 year olds. There's a new version of ASQ that adds a questionnaire at 2 months and 9 months. These include questions to better screen for autism.
- *Other*
 - Lessons from the Field series: Remaining dates: May 13 (ITV room, FSC); from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; still several spots open - register online at cmh.umn.edu
 - DC0-3 training dates have been changed to June 29 - 30.
 - Liz recommended the Media Wise website as a good source of training. They have webinars available for \$40. See mediawise.org.

Other

- FY10 budget and work plan approved by the Governance Board so we're set for next year!
- Other:
 - MA regulations regarding school-based claiming, targeted case management and have been rescinded.
 - Carol informed the group about a Cass/Clay regional committee on behavioral and spiritual health following a disaster. They have put out information about where to go for help, providing psychological first aid, etc. Some teams were sent out on Saturday to people who were severely impacted by the flood to follow up to find out if they had any unmet needs. Carol has been pleased with the cooperation across agencies and across the river. The group is moving into a recovery phase. Lakeland is offering some free time. Southeast will provide two sessions of free service to any Cass County resident and one session to Clay County on a walk-in basis. Susan Hegland (MHA-ND) has taken the lead in having ND and MN declare MH month. The group will continue to meet to continue the MH theme in the planning that will happen around pandemic flu.
 - Carolyn reported that MNSAP (adoption support) will have to close their regional offices and will lose their website on July 1. Check it out before it's gone: mnasap.org. DHS will use the money they previously paid for support to recruit more adoptive parents. She would also like to have regular updates to this group from the LAC.

Next meeting: June 2, meeting room 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m. The group decided that this meeting time works so we will continue to meet at this time next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Tommerdahl, Collaborative Coordinator