

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 2 June 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), Gerald Gomez (Prairie St. John's), Deb Jendro (ND Federation of Families), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Michelle Mullikin (Lakeland Mental Health), Kristin Phillips (Head Start /Lakes and Prairies Community Action), Barb Schaub (Lakeland Mental Health Center), Ruth Smith (REACH), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Beth Wallman-Zimmerman (Lakeland Mental Health), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Carol welcomed the group. Minutes from the 5/05/09 meeting were unanimously approved. (Beth/Barb) No changes were made to today's agenda.

Updates

- Connecting Families First (Children's Mobile Crisis Team): Beth reported that the biggest issue of discussion among BCOW (Adult MH initiative) and CFF/COW is the merger of the children's team with the adult team. Other programs in the state have managed to work out such a merger. At this stage, they're brainstorming about how it might work. Wilkin and Otter Tail pilots are underway; no calls have been received since April 22. Clay is still short of practitioners. Other programs in the state have hired core staff and supplement with others who would be on-call in addition to their full-time jobs – this could be an option for us if more practitioners don't come forward. A teleconference with DHS was held recently. CFF received good feedback on what's going on in the other parts of the state. Some staff will be attending CPI (crisis prevention intervention) in Fergus Falls on Friday. Work group members added that Prairie and Solutions also offer CPI training.
- CMH coordinator: Shawna reported that evaluations of the training series were mixed (likely due to the breadth of experience and backgrounds of the attendees), as they have been in the past, but were overall positive. Between 130 – 160 attended each of the three sessions, twice as many as last year. A work group will meet to plan for next year's series - be thinking about suggestions for speakers, topics, format, etc.
- Other
 - Carol reported that they haven't heard anything about unallotment. They will be doing their Community and Children's Service Act plan after July 1. The LAC will discuss it and will need to approve it.
 - Kristin reported that Head Start staff are busy working on a couple of grants – to expand Head Start and add Early Head Start (pre-natal – age 3).
 - Ruth reminded the group that REACH is holding their variety show and silent auction on Thursday p.m. at Hawley High School. The dinner begins at 5:30 and the show at 7. The motorcycle run leaves from the REACH parking lot at 10 a.m. on Saturday.
 - Carolyn reminded the group that the MSSA conference will be held June 16 – 17. She (and many other local people) will be presenting.
 - Deb passed around a flier about the upcoming dance to be held this Saturday. Their Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation grant report was just finished. Parent empowerment and sports training is underway. She has been put in jail to raise money for MDA.

- Michelle reported that the Rule 79 case managers are looking forward to doing fun activities with their clients this summer. They'll be doing CTSS activities once a week in addition to individual activities throughout the summer.
- Lanette's latest project is helping create a small magazine about resources for people with disabilities for *FM Extra*. This magazine will be sent to a large geographic area.
- Karla noted that the summer is especially challenging at the shelter because children aren't in school and many of the volunteers go to the lakes/take a vacation from volunteering at the shelter.
- Gerald announced that he's leaving Prairie after two years to continue his education in hospital administration. On behalf of the work group, Carol expressed appreciation for his work
- Barb reviewed the schools where day treatment is offered (both full and part-time) to students in grades K – 12. She informed the group that the summer session at day treatment will run three days a week for six weeks.

FY09 work plan

- *Respite:*
 - Rule 79 respite grant: Carol reported that she has submitted the grant report to DHS. Informal requests are up due to summer activities. She will give numbers for the year next time. The program will continue through next year. Her goal is to reduce the use of ShelterCare in crisis situations and redirect the savings to provide informal respite for the adolescents.
 - Respite for younger kids: none dispersed since last meeting
- *Flex*
 - Distributed since last meeting: \$6790.50 in May
 - Distributed so far in FY09: \$22,433.50 (\$8092.55 for children under 9, \$14,340.95 for children 9 and up)
 - Proposed change to flex approval process:
 - Dawn can approve requests without consulting the approval team if the request falls within these parameters:
 1. Clay County child with SED or at risk of SED who wouldn't be eligible for the Rule 79 respite funds.
 2. Amount is under \$100.
 3. Child has not previously received flex funds or the second request does not take the child over the \$100 limit.
 4. Request is an individual request and not a group request.
 5. Funding must be used for the child so that the child can participate in camp or community/sporting events.
 - For all other situations, Dawn will send information to the team for approval.
 - Dawn will inform the approval team weekly of the requests she has approved following the criteria laid out above.

A motion to approve the proposed changes passed unanimously.
(Lanette/Shawna)
- *Churches case worker:* Karla reported that the family rooms are full except one - that family moved out yesterday after six months. It's easier to find apartments during the summer when college students are gone. All of the family rooms have been painted. New carpet will have

been installed in each of the family rooms by next week. All of the current families have mental health issues. Eight of the children are under the age of five.

- *REACH project* : Ruth reported that sixteen children received counseling in May. Seventy-three families (including 73 children) used the food pantry.
- *Follow Along Program*: According to Liz, the program is running as reported last time.
- Other
 - Deb will attend the national meeting on rural mental health in New Mexico.

Other

- The FY10 budget and work plan approved! Dawn passed out the updated budget (through April). It looks like we'll have a significant amount to carry over into FY10.
- Collaborative strategic planning will be held on June 24 from 9 a.m. – noon at Probstfield Center for Education (2410 14th St. S., Moorhead). Liz will represent the work group. Carol will find out if she can attend since Rhonda is unable to. Deb will put it on her calendar.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Tommerdahl

Collaborative Coordinator