

Children's Mental Health Systems Work Group Minutes

Tuesday, 4 August 2009

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), Karla Flisk (Churches United for the Homeless), Deb Jendro (ND Federation of Families), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Ruth Smith (REACH), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Lanette volunteered to chair the meeting. Minutes from 6/02/09 meeting were unanimously approved. (Carolyn/Karla) No changes were made to today's agenda.

Updates

CMH coordinator: Shawna was unable to attend the meeting but she sent this report:

- I am working on setting up protocol, paperwork and program planning for the consultation grant. I hope to have it start sometime in September, but that will depend on some licensing issues through Innovis/Patient Tools/ASQ-SE companies. I will be having a press conference sometime in August to announce the grant, along with an Advisory Board meeting. I am just waiting for press release approval from Robert Wood Johnson before I can schedule the press conference.
- A collaborative effort from many agencies brought Tina Feigal here the last week in July - 150 parents attended Tuesday evening's training and around 40 professionals attended Wednesday morning's. She will be here doing parent coaching in the fall and then Howard Glasser will be here in the spring - all promoting the same message (Nurtured Heart Approach).

Children's Mobile Crisis Team: Beth will no longer be attending this meeting, but she sent the following update:

1. The executive team decided that it would be best if I focus on attending the adult & children's LAC groups. At those meetings, I'll be able to update both groups on the program changes, but also gather feedback from providers and consumers regarding quality assurance issues of the programs.
2. **SAVE THE DATE:** August 12th at 11:30-1:00 (lunch provided) at LMHC here in Moorhead, we are having another Children's MH Stakeholder's Meeting. It was decided at the last minute by the Exec. Team, so we're trying to get the word out. I don't have the official invite completed yet, but wanted you to know that we are "going back to the drawing board" with programming, and wanting some input from community providers, parents/consumers, collaboratives etc. I hope you can come on such short notice. The official invite will go out tomorrow (Tuesday, August 4)...let me know if you can attend so I can order enough food for lunch!

Carol added that program is "going back to the drawing board" because they are being encouraged to combine the adult and children's crisis teams. From now on, training, stakeholder groups, etc. will include both children and adult consumers/family members and service providers. The goal for completing the merger is January 1, 2010. Some people who work with the adult population can also work with children. They would like to get a team or two going in Clay before school starts. Connecting Families First can continue to use their state grant money through the end of the year.

FY09 work plan

- *Respite:*
 - Rule 79 respite grant: Carol reported that they're right on target with expenditures. They've been spending a lot on informal respite. Formal respite (provided by foster homes) is expensive. The next challenge is how to use the CASII to measure improvement in the child's functioning. She will compile a report of children served, activities, etc. for our September meeting.
 - Respite for younger kids: none dispersed since last meeting
- *Flex*
 - Distributed so far in FY10: \$5378.38 (\$1909.70 for children under 9, \$3468.68 for children 9 and up)
 - Report for FY09 flex funds: \$25,559.26 was spent (\$9707.55 for children under 9, \$15,851.71 for children 9 and up). 309 children received funds. 90% were at risk of SED. Thirty-seven people from 12 agencies referred children to the program. There was one self-referral. 64.3% of the total expenditures (\$16,434.50) went to support activities for children who were referred by Metro Youth Partnership. Funds were used to pay for camp (63 children), individual sports/recreation (93 children), team sports (78 children), pool passes (52 children), school-related activities/expenses (40 children), music (13 children), and transportation-related (7 children).
- *Churches case worker:* Karla reported that it has been a busy summer. The family rooms (and the shelter) have been full. She expects that families with older children will seek shelter as the beginning of the school year approaches. Two families moved into housing this week. Karla has noticed that they have served probably about half the number of families as they did last year because their length of stay has doubled. Apartment rental application fees are becoming more burdensome for families. People with felonies in their backgrounds and credit scores lower than 500 are often prevented from getting housing.
- *REACH project:* Ruth reported that only 8 children from Clay County received counseling last month. Seventy-nine families (including 96 children) used the food pantry. A school supply drive is underway. The motorcycle run was bigger than last year's. It's growing slowly.
- *Follow Along Program:* Liz reported that kids are getting older and they continue to receive questionnaires. Parents seem pleased to know that the program runs through age 5. Liz added that Public Health will be gearing up for H1N1 vaccinations in the fall. They typically administer 1500 doses of flu vaccine a year. Public Health is awaiting CDC recommendations on H1N1 vaccinations and will provide seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations to the public.
- *Other:*
 - The group discussed the difficulties people with mental illness face when they go to the emergency room or walk-in clinic. Karla added that often people are dropped off at the shelter when clinics don't know what to do with them and send them elsewhere in a cab.
 - Carol noted that it's CCSA (Children and Community Service Act) planning time – the plan is due October 15. It will be on next month's agenda.
 - Dawn passed out information about PVC (toxic plastic) –free school supplies. See www.chej.org or www.besafenet.com/pvc for a complete list.

Other

- Collaborative strategic planning: Liz gave an overview of the day – that the group discussed priorities in small groups and then as a large group prioritized issues. They then discussed each of the top issues more fully. Lanette noted that several people at her table were new to the Collaborative. Carol felt that people discussed issues without hidden agendas because of the way the tables were mixed.
- Discussion: role of this work group vs. role of LAC: Carol reminded the group that prior to combining with the Family Services Collaborative, the LCC was quite strong in creating systems change. Carolyn added that the Children’s Mental Health work group could act as the LCC. Carol explained that the work group would identify needs and then pull in people to come up with a plan to address the needs (e.g. vocational support for children with mental health diagnoses, emergency MH appointments). We’ll look at the statute about the LCC more in-depth next time.
- Other
 - Deb announced that the Laughter Yoga training will take place on September 30 (1 – 5 p.m.), October 1 (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and October 2 (9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.). It will be a “train the trainer” session. Cost is \$60 for professionals and \$30 for parents/family members. Space is limited to 25. Training is funded by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (through ND office). It’s experiential learning! Deb will send a flier to Dawn who will distribute it.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Tommerdahl

Collaborative Coordinator