

Clay County Collaborative
Successful Partnerships building Successful Families
Program updates, Work Group updates and Coordinator's report
October 2007

Program updates: Project Work Groups

Family Support Model

Program coordinator Aimee Griffin reports that *wraparound* referrals are picking up now that school is back in session. Brenda Jacobson has been hired to be a part-time facilitator. Aimee has developed a guidebook (based on the Portland handbook) that she will use when she meets with families. Families will keep the guide for future reference. The guidebook will be revised as families give feedback. Referrals to *family group decision making* have been slower, so the facilitators did a lot of follow-up in September. Summer Rahlf (LSS) has been taking many of the family group conferences. The LSS grant writer has been looking for large grants to continue to fund the program.

Reentry Services - report from Shelley Ford, Probation, will be given at the Administrative Group meeting

Restorative Justice – report will be given at the meeting

Truancy Intervention Program

Coordinator Alex Ishaug reports that about 240 students were served during summer school in Moorhead. Three TIP staff handled the cases. This fall all staff except one returned. Kyle Geaumont has been hired to work in the greater county schools. She has developed a plan for her part of the after school program in those schools. After school programs for middle and/or high school students are up and running in Hawley and Ulen-Hitterdal. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton will start theirs on October 22. The first County Attorney meeting was held on Monday, October 8. Families of seven students were invited and five attended. Alex is encouraging her staff to involve families earlier. Ninety-eight home visits were made in September. Family advocates have worked with 256 students so far this school year. Family advocates continue to use the YOQ-30 as a screening tool. Information is used to make referrals to other services. The program will send satisfaction surveys to stakeholders again this year, once in the fall and again in the spring. This year mental health care providers, Probation and Social Services will also receive the surveys.

Work Group updates: Systems Change Work Groups

Children's Mental Health – Churches United for the Homeless Family Case Manager – no report at this time

Children's Mental Health – Other projects

- 1) **Respite:** no report at this time
- 2) **Flex Funds:** \$926 has been spent so far in October to pay for activities for ten children.
- 3) **Brown Bag Speaker Series:** Twelve people attended Beth Anderson's presentation on "Job or Joy?" at the beginning of October. Dr. Arne Graff (MeritCare) will give a presentation on

child/adolescent abuse on November 6 and Carol Harrison (The Village) will discuss how get out of financial trouble and avoid it in the future at the December 4 session.

IIP (Individual Interagency Intervention Plan): *no report at this time*

School Age Disabilities: This is a busy week for this work group. They will co-host a Halloween Party for children with disabilities on Monday, October 22. The day-long parent forum featuring Dr. Jean Blaska on cyclical grieving will take place on Saturday, October 27.

Work Group updates: Collaborative Committees

Parent Involvement Committee: The second book discussion group will be held on Wednesdays, October 31 and November 7 over the noon hour at the Family Service Center. The group will discuss *Do You Hear What I Hear? Parents and Professionals Working Together for Children with Special Needs*.

Planning and Evaluation Committee: The work group is planning to host a grant-writing roundtable for Collaborative partners and interested community organizations. Work group members will provide more information at the Administrative Group meeting.

Work Group updates: Problem-solving Work Groups

Prevention & Early Intervention: Dad's group facilitator Rich Preussler resigned due to increased work and family demands. Tyrel Hegland (Rainbow Bridge) has tentatively agreed to serve as teen dad facilitator to get a group going for some teen dads who have expressed an interest. The work group continues to iron out the details. Work group members will meet with someone from the Minnesota Fathers and Families Network on Tuesday following MFFN's presentation on working with never-married families.

Substance Abuse: Two members of the work group (Gina Nolte, Public Health and Mark Haugen, Hawley Public Schools) along with Therese Vogel (Ulen-Hitterdal Public Schools) will attend a workshop in St. Paul October 24-25 to learn more about the community prevention grant the coalition of counselors and students from County schools received. Dawn will attend the workshop on Thursday only.

LCTS coordinator's report

Jane Patrick writes: With the school year well underway, it brings a welcome lull to the busy activity of refresher time study training and training for new staff within the schools. A total of 15 new participants were trained to the time study and about 60 staff received refresher training during August, September and early October. There were some really great questions raised during the smaller more focused refresher training sessions, so I am confident that the number of reimbursable codes will continue to grow.

Also, just a short reminder to take the time to submit a comment to the Federal Government about the proposed Rule change which will drastically reduce our time study earnings in

October 2008 if it is approved. Comments must be received at one of the addresses provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on November 6, 2007. In commenting, **please refer to file code CMS-2287-P.**

You may submit comments electronically to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/eRulemaking>. Click on the link "Submit electronic comments on CMS regulations with an open comment period." (Attachments should be in Microsoft Word.)

To submit comments by regular mail please include one original and two copies and send to the following address:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-2287-P, Mail Stop S3-14-22,
7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244

Coordinator's report

In the week following my return from vacation on October 8, I logged 1300 miles to attend various meetings around the state. Region 2 coordinators met in Thief River Falls on the 8th. The potential payback and cuts in MA funding were once again our main topics of discussion. On October 10 I attended the 33rd annual program sharing conference in St. Cloud. Dr. Robert Brewer, leader of the CDC's Alcohol Team, gave the keynote address on trends in alcohol use, primarily among young people. I also attended sessions on how energy drinks affect the body's metabolism and abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. All of these provided good background for me as I support the work of our school group in devising prevention strategies that will be successful in our area. On Friday, October 12 I attended a meeting of the State Interagency Planning Committee as a guest. Loraine Jensen, Minnesota Department of Education, who visited our IIP work group in September, is heading up an effort to revitalize interagency collaboration to greater benefit children with special needs and their families. It became clear at this meeting that representatives of the state agencies present also struggle with making collaboration work effectively in certain areas. In the past we have discussed how we collaborate, both formally and informally, in our efforts to assist families in their journeys. Overcoming barriers remains a challenge in many areas and at many levels, both local and state (not to mention national). I am grateful for the many trusting relationships that I have experienced in my work with you, your staff and our dedicated parent volunteers. If we in Clay County have the reputation of having figured out collaboration to a certain extent, it is due to the long-standing relationships that you have created and strengthened through the years. We will continue to build on them in the future.