

Reentry Services Project Work Group Meeting Minutes

3 December 2009

1:00 p.m.

Corrections conference room

In attendance: Sally Dandurand (Transitional Coordinator), Shelley Ford (Corrections), Alex Ishaug (Clay County Social Services), Charlie Kaspari (Restorative Justice), Mike McMullen (Transitional Coordinator), Yolanda Redding (The Village Family Service Center), Dave Schwehr (Juvenile Chaplaincy & Guidance Program), Corey Walters (West Central Regional Juvenile Center), Dawn Tommerdahl (Clay County Collaborative)

Shelley welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions.

Program updates

- *Program update:*
 - Six-year report on the program is out. Kathleen has written an executive summary. See pp. 6-7 for the recommendations that were discussed at the Advisory Board: create a separate advisory board, employ a grant-writer for the program, monitor assessment scales (YLS may not be best for all), pay attention to serving specific clientele better (cultural, gender, multi-problem), expand TC resources to serve a broader group of youth (e.g. social services), improve relationships between families and schools as well as the youth's relationships with their families and schools.
 - Sally will be starting a weekly group for girls at RRALC on unmasking sexual con games.
 - Budget: As of the end of the fifth quarter of the two-year grant period, 54% of budgeted funds have been spent. It looks like there will be funds remaining if spending continues at this pace.
- *Family assessments:* Two new referrals have come in and will be completed in December. If families meet with Yolanda, this extra support is very helpful to families. About 30% of families participate in the family assessments.
- *Other:*
 - The program didn't receive the Title II grant. The SAMHSA grant that's out is for people who have been incarcerated for at least a year – our population doesn't fit. At the NW Regional Juvenile Justice Forum, they heard of another juvenile reentry program that charges the county a per diem for youth involved in the program. Let Shelley know if you see any grants that would be a possibility for the program.
 - The article about the program *will* appear in the December issue of *Corrections Today*. Shelley will try to get extra copies of it.

Other

- Charlie started as RJ facilitator last Monday. He will also be working with juvenile victim advocacy program. Shelly Carlson, victim advocacy program director, will be the administrator for RJ, the elder abuse grant the County Attorney just received and another grant.

- Dave informed the group that he is now doing the same work as he did for Youth for Christ but under the auspices of a different organization. He continues to work with youth in detention facilities as he builds enough support to expand the Juvenile Chaplaincy & Guidance Program to provide other services to youth.
- Yolanda informed the group that the Village has begun doing DC 0-3 assessments for very young children. In-home referrals are picking up. Parenting groups will start in January. Mind over Mood groups are winding down. New sessions will start up after the first of the year.
- Alex informed the group about resources available from Youthworks:
 - Stepping Stones Resource Center (youth drop-in center) that's now open at Fraser on South University in Fargo,
 - Transitional housing program,
 - Transitional living program for young mothers/families (ages 18-21).
- "Lessons from the Field" series on race, culture and mental health starts tomorrow morning at 9 in the ITV room at the Family Service Center. Other dates for this year are: February 17, March 18 and May 12. Register online at cmh.umn.edu.
- Corey reported that Chris Johnson from SSRC will speak to the detention center next Thursday. Numbers are still down; half of the youth are in the treatment program. Many of the counties that support the center bought beds, so that has stabilized the budget.
- The students Sally brought to the Moorhead High production of "Peter Pan" enjoyed it!

Next meeting: To be announced! We will wait until it's time to review the FY11 work plan.