



## Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, November 7, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

*"To promote an accessible, comprehensive and a unified children's mental health system within Clay County"*

Melissa welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone shared one good thing about the winter. Minutes from the October 3, 2019 meeting were approved (Jeanette/Michelle). Checking account balance is \$704.07

Presentation: Friends of the Children: John Fisher, Executive Director; Dave Kemper, Program Manager Friends of the Children, national non-profit. Purpose is to mentor children who are at risk. Enroll children at age Kindergarten and stay with them until high school graduation. Work to break the cycle of generational poverty. They hope to eliminate the need for out of placement. Work with children 4 hours a week. Two hours in the school, two hours in the community. Have hired two friends. Their goal is to double the number of children they work with every year. Each friend will have 8 children on their case load. They are gender matched. Goals of the friends' relationship is having the child graduate from high school, go on to trade school, post-secondary, enter the work force; avoid early parenting; and avoid criminal involvement. Dave coaches and mentors the "friends" staff. It is two generational models that intentionally works with the parents as well. The mentors are paid, go through Mentor has to have at least a bachelor degree and five years of experience working with youth. The application process is extensive. Staff have ongoing training in the areas of being a mentor, trauma informed, developmental milestones, characteristics. They are looking for partners. Will be talking to Clay County in a couple of weeks. It is not grant funded at this time with currently funded through philanthropy. They serve youth in a 30 mile range from the Fargo Moorhead area. Two occurrences will stop services – one the parent enrolls and the second is the child leaves the area. Data outcomes show that 83% of youth with Friends graduate from high school; 93% avoid the juvenile justice system; 98% avoid early parenting. Use a risk assessment with the child to determine if they qualify for and can benefit from the program. Program is volunteer for the family.

Fifteen individuals attended the NAMI Understanding Children's Mental Health System of Care training. Attendance included Moorhead school social workers and social work students from Concordia.

A Lunch and Learn on vaping will take place on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Jason McCoy from Public Health will be the presenter. Currently 21 people are signed up to attend. A second Brown Bag Lunch on vaping will occur on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Agency Updates:

Freedom Resource Center: national conference in Michigan; a lot of the individuals attending were youth.

Mobile Crisis Unit: in October – 18 stabilizations, 3 dispatches for children, 9 for adults, 71 phone supports.

Kindred Family Focus: Licensing 2 homes in Moorhead. Both want to work with younger kids. Doing comfort calls to include someone close to the youth to be a part of the team. Typically, do not have much parental contact while child is in placement.

Solutions: Caseloads are full. Wait list for all types of programs. Next development – dental care for individuals with special needs. Build a dental clinic with in the AIM office location. Staff are working on sensory issues to prepare a child for a dental exam.

Lakeland Mental Health Center: Fully staffed in all areas. Wait time for outpatient services range from 5 days to two weeks. A hold was placed on MA Rule 79 case management services. Agencies are still taking PMAP. Case workers work with family to get them on to PMAPs. Jeremy provides support to those waiting to get on case management services and does Fast Track for those who are non-MA and PMAP plans. Schools and agencies are becoming more knowledgeable about services. The key is to find away to get the information to parents.

West Central Juvenile Center: Construction is going well. The center is for the most part at capacity. With the completion of the Center, the number of youths they can serve will increase by quite a bit which will mean the hiring of 6-9 additional full-time staff and around 20 part time staff. The Center is looking for a full-time therapist who can do trauma work with the juvenile at the Center. Duration of stay has increased especially in secured. Opened a CD treatment program on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Currently 23 youth are participating in the long-term CD program. Offering program that others in the state do not.

County: Jail construction is slightly behind with completion date moved towards April. A group is meeting on facility needs. More space is needed for judges, lawyers and court administrative staff. Jim attended a Joint Powers Committee meeting this morning and heard a presentation on the career academy that will be going in to the old Sam's Club building. The Moorhead referendum passed which will provide the funding the school district needs to move ahead with renovations. Students attending the academy will be able to graduate high school with a skill that will provide them immediate employment.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a presentation on the county budget.