



Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Meeting Minutes

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

Carolyn welcomed everyone to the group. Minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting were approved as written. (Michelle Mullikin/Bryan Hanson) Checking account balance is \$1,998.62. We have received and deposited the annual \$1,500 funds from Social Services. Thank you!

Old Business:

Out of Home Placement Costs: Michelle was not able to attend today's meeting. Tabled until the February meeting.

New Business:

Gathering information on the strengths of Clay County Children's Mental Health system; gathering information on gaps in services – service providers, families, and community.

Gathering of information on Clay County's children's mental health system of care is part of the requirement of the Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health. One of the biggest challenges is gathering information from youth and families being served by the system. The Children's Mental Health workgroup offered the following assistance in gathering the needed information: The Village Family Service Center would be willing to ask their in-home clients to complete the survey; rule 79 case managers could ask their families; other options would be Head Start home visitors, Churches United for the Homeless, and REACH. Questions that might be good to include in the survey: What are the chances of people following through with appointments in an office setting versus going to their home? How many families are aware of case management services? Where do families get information on mental health services? The survey will be available in early February and will be available in both online and paper copy. The council offered the following assistance: Head Start parent teacher conferences, asking school social workers to share with parents and that there is some value in offering the survey to parents attending Kidsfest. Carolyn will work on the questions and send them out via email to approve.

Youth input: The county as part of their pilot project with the state systems of care grant are required to gather information from youth being served by the local system. The council offered the following input to gather that information: ask special education students complete the survey via their teachers; alternative learning center students as a source of information; and check in to high school groups.

Agency Updates:

Head Start: Enrollment is at 136 center-based and a little over 100 for home visiting and early Head Start program which serves mostly children under the age of 3 and pregnant moms. They are working with Solutions to schedule their next parent group. They will be offering the class during the day this time.

Clay County: Jim reported that they are finalizing the second phase of the correctional facility. The Building Committee is having ongoing meetings to discuss the need for expanded judicial space. The annual Clay County Governmental Retreat will be held on January 24th with the focus on workforce improvement – recruiting and retaining employees.

Solutions Behavioral Health held a holiday event at the Autism Center. 38 families attended. Staff volunteered for the event which included activity stations, treats, a visit with Santa and family photos. The next evening it was opened to children served under case management and their families. The agency serves 105 children and 95 adults through case management. The Autism Center has a waiting list of 30 children. The Center's 2020 project will be to add a dental care program and a large motor room.

Kindred Family Foster Care agency licensed two families in Moorhead. Parents in one family have an educational background. Another family is in the process of being licensed. All gift tags were taken off the giving tree providing children in foster care with Christmas gifts.

Friends of the Children has signed a memorandum of understanding with Clay County Social Services. The two Friends are currently serving nine children with a goal of a case load of sixteen. As the need expands so will the program.

Mobile Crisis Response Program stats for December included 102 phone support; 17 dispatches of which five were for children. All children were able to remain in their home, with no hospitalization. The program now has a staff member certified to train others on suicidality. Attendees can earn CEUs for attending that training. Freedom Resource will be starting their Our Living Well 102 – Self Sufficiency course on January 30th. The program will run for ten weeks on Thursdays from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

Lakeland will be short one case manager beginning the middle of January. Megan will be on maternity leave in February. Referrals continue to come in. The annual holiday bake sale was a success. Funds from the fundraiser go towards gas cards, therapeutic supplies and other items families need.

West Central Juvenile Center has hired nine new staff to fill out the program needs due to the expansion of beds and programs. The Center continues to be full across both the secure and non-secure program. The Independent living program will be up and running once the construction is completed. When the expanded Center opens later this spring, it will be the second largest facility in the state. They serve a range of cultures and students from across the state.

Social Services: (Update provided at Children's Mental Health work group meeting, January 7th) A memorandum with the Friends of the Children program is in place. The agency will be meeting with staff to start the referral process. The respite grant has been approved but the agency has not received the signed contract. Until they receive the contract, they can approve requests but cannot pay out. Emergency respite will be approved and paid from county funds until the signed contract is in place. Training for the Collaborative Intensive Bridging Service (CIBS) will begin next week. Lutheran Social Services will oversee the mental health portion of the service. West Central Juvenile Center will be used for any short stays outside the home that are needed.

Upcoming:

January 21st: Vaping among our Youth: Jason McCoy, Clay County Public Health

April 18th: Kidsfest, Moorhead Center Mall (check with Carolyn about hosting a resource booth)

May 8th: Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Next meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2020