



Success Partnership building Success Families

Children's Mental Health Work Group

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Lanette Krinsky welcomed everyone to the meeting. The agenda was approved by consensus with no changes or additions. Minutes from the October 6, 2020 meeting were approved. (Peggie Chisholm/Chandra Calixte)

Presentation: Webinar: Handle with Care.

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/lst.php?RCID=5845e300fdf0470fa8ebb20431be510a>

Handle with Care is a program operating in the Alexandria school district area. It is a partnership between Alexandria Public Schools, Alexandria Police Department, Douglas County Social Services, and Horizon Public Health. Together they work to identify children who may have been exposed to trauma outside of the school day and sharing that information with the school district who uses their knowledge of trauma-informed strategies to support the student. Duane Borgeson shared information on a similar program that is operating between the Moorhead Police Department and Moorhead Public School district. Information on police calls involving children is shared between building principals and the police department.

Agency Updates:

REACH received CARES funding to host a support group for teachers. The model was not as successful as they had hoped it would be because of teacher schedules. The agency is now contracting with Monica McConkey to provide information and support. Each Monday, Monica provides a Monday with Monica newsletter that includes information on reducing stress and self-care. In addition, teachers can schedule a Zoom meeting with Monica for additional support. The new programming has proven to be very successful.

Churches United for the Homeless assisted two more families in obtaining housing. Currently, no families are residing in overflow. All eight family rooms are in use. All elementary children living in the shelter have enrolled in the childcare program that supports students on the school days that they are not in an in-school learning environment. School attendance by children at the shelter has improved over the last year. School attendance with students who live at Bright Sky is still a challenge. The agency has begun the planning for holiday services.

Freedom Resource Center is seeing clients through Zoom and in-person, by appointments only. The number of clients served this year is down from previous years. Merri Christlieb just completed working with a client who wanted to obtain a driver's license. She successfully passed her driver's test but then needed a vehicle. Fix it Forward was able to donate a car. We love success stories!

Moorhead Public School district: Duane shared that the district is in the final stages of its strategic planning. The new plan will include mental health goals that will look at the current system, personnel, and programming. The goals will consist of strategies to offer students support and resources that will lead to academic success. PreK through eighth grade is currently operating in hybrid mode with the high school totally on distance learning. The new Equity Inclusion Director for the district is Matour Lalier.

The Village Family Service Center is seeing clients through Telehealth and some in-office. CARES funding continues to be used to provide the Wednesday Walk-in Mental Health Clinic. Services in the clinic include therapy, referrals, and some families' access to in-home therapy. An influx of referrals to the in-home therapy program by Social Services is occurring.

The Mobile Crisis Response Program served a total of sixteen clients, including eight children, in October. There were seven stabilizations in the county in October. The total number of clients served in the regional program continues to fluctuate. The program hired another full-time staff to serve Otter Tail County. The program in Clay and Wilkin counties to be fully staffed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 1 pm – 2:30 pm