



*Success Partnership building Success Families*

## **Children's Mental Health Work Group**

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

### **Meeting Minutes**

Lanette Gorder welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting agenda was approved by consensus with no additions or changes. Minutes from the December 1, 2020 were approved. (Merri Christlieb/Duane Borgeson)

Presentation: Churches United for the Homeless provided by Chandra Calixte, Family Case Manager. Churches United for the Homeless is made up of two shelters, Dorothy Day and Micah's Mission; two food pantries, and a supported housing setting, Bright Sky. In our community, the program works to prevent homelessness and to support those that are experiencing homelessness. In 2020, the shelter has served 45 families which included 87 children. Twenty-four of those families included a male in the household with eight families that of single dads. Micah's Mission is the only shelter in a 250-mile radius that allows for males to stay with the family. Of the 87 children, 25 are Native American, 25 Black, 14 Hispanic, 4 Other, and 19 White. The shelter serves a disproportion of Native American and Black families in comparison of total population for Clay County. The mission has 8 family rooms. Typically, families start in overflow and then move into a family room when it becomes available. 55% of families served are first time homelessness. One in four are a working family that have experienced a financial down from work or a family crisis that diverted funds from housing. One in five families have an adult that is disabled. 90% of all homeless served at the two programs self-resolve their situation and never present to the shelter. Churches is an access point for prevention information by providing a resource board and information when contacted. CARES (Coordinated Access Referral Entry and Stabilization System) is one tool that is used to help those at risk of homelessness. When a family arrives at the shelter, they are given time to adjust to the living environment before starting to work with a case manager. They are not required to work with Chandra but most do accept the help with information, referrals, kid activities. The initial assessment includes a story of how they landed at the shelter, their homeless history, need for services, assistance in registering the children for school, and a discussion on next steps. Case management at the shelter is very much a relationship building process. Some barriers the homeless population face include transportation to jobs and services, finding employment, finding affordable housing, and having the necessary paperwork such as a social security card. There are two housing programs that are helping families secure housing through vouchers. Homeless to Housed is a five-year rental assistance program. Homework Starts at Home is a two-year program for Moorhead Public School students that also offers case management. Clay County Social Services and Community Action Program Lakes and Prairies provide assistance for those that need help with a deposit on an apartment. Down Home is an organization that sets up a home for a family complete with furniture and kitchen needs. Open Door provide household goods for free and a Furniture Mission of the Red River Valley help with furniture needs. Employment with a living wage, affordable housing and transportation are needed to establish and maintain stable housing.

#### Agency Updates:

REACH: The office remains closed to the public. They are making plans to start the client choice pantry option up. Those wishing to access the pantry will need to show their card with proof of vaccine for COVID. There is still the choice of drive-up services for pantry. Monica McConkey's contract to support teachers in rural schools has been extended. Youth Prevention Group meeting and activities are being challenged with not being able to meet face to face due to COVID restrictions. A mailing with local resources for families was mailed out to Hawley families.

Churches United for the Homeless is hoping to get college students back volunteering at the shelter. They help by planning activities and with homework. An overflow case manager has been hired to help those residing in overflow. This is a new position for the shelter. The shelter is doing COVID testing every week. Homeless shelters are included in Tier 3 for getting the vaccine.

The Village Family Service Center Wednesday walk-in clinic ended at the end of December. A Love and Logic class is starting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The next entry point for the teen DBT is January 21<sup>st</sup>. There are openings for family therapy.

Mobile Crisis Response Program had seventy phone call supports in December, thirty-one stabilizations (11 of those were in Clay County) and thirty-two dispatches with sight of those in Clay County. No children were served in Clay County for the month of December.

Carolyn shared that she will be leaving the position of Clay County Collaborative sometime in the first six months of 2021. A small group of individuals will meet to discuss the position and the transition process.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 1pm – 2:30pm**