



Success Partnership building Success Families

Children's Mental Health Work Group

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Peggie Chisolm, REACH; Michelle Thordal, Clay County Social Services; Lanette Gorder, Parent Representative; Jenni Beilke, CAPLP Head Start; Roy Rostvet, Lakeland Mental Health Center; Megan Cowden, Lakeland Mental Health Center; Megan Weiland, Clay County Social Services; Duane Borgeson, Moorhead Public Schools; Carolyn Strnad, Coordinator;

Lanette welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone shared one good thing.

The agenda was approved by consensus with no additions or corrections. Minutes from the February 7, 2021 meeting were approved. (Peggie/Michelle)

The transition planning committee released the Collaborative Coordinator position applications to Collaborative partners yesterday. Anyone interested in the position can contact Carolyn for an application. This position is for an independent contractor working up to 15 hours per week. Applications are due back on March 17, 2021. Any questions and applications should be sent to Joni Medenwald at jmedenwald@thevillagefamily.org or contact Lanette at LanetteKrinsky@yahoo.com.

Agency Updates:

Head Start: The agency is preparing for next year. Currently, there are four slots open in the center-based preschool-age program. Parents have the option of sending them to in-person schooling or attending online. The agency is building a waiting list for all of its programs that serve pregnant women and children through four years of age. Moorhead Public Schools opened their kindergarten registration. Teachers and staff are helping parents register their children for kindergarten entrance next fall. On March 24, Solutions staff will begin an online parenting class. There will be summer programming available through a partnership with United Way. Children for the program will be selected based on need.

Lakeland Mental Health sees an increase in case management referrals. Currently, six clients are waiting for the new case manager to start next week. Some of the restrictions are being lifted, allowing case managers to see more of their clients face-to-face. With individuals getting vaccinated, clinic staff has started seeing more patients in-person. CTSS staff are back in school working with students. Currently, all school meetings are through virtual platforms.

Clay County Social Services continue to operate under the Governor's orders for COVID precautions. More staff are coming into the office to work and have started to see some clients face-to-face as required by

specific programs. Child protection reports are up. Out-of-home placement numbers are going up. Some of that is related to schools opening up to more children. The Intensive Bridging Services program is seeing success in reducing the number of out-of-home placements. The program has been operating for two years, and they are just now seeing their first youth access phase two with needing a 30-day treatment stay at the West Central Juvenile Center. Other youths served by the program have remained at home with family.

REACH is seeing an increase in mental health referrals. With precautions, mental health providers have seen clients and family in-person at the REACH office. The agency is working on introducing volunteers back into their programming due to limited access to the vaccine. They also have two staff who have chosen not to be vaccinated. Peggie is looking for agencies that have developed policies around employees who have chosen not to be vaccinated. Food pantry orders are being taken over the phone and packed for pick up only. If a client can show proof of vaccination, they will open the pantry up for the client's choice. A detailed list of pantry items is part of the phone intake so that the products selected can be as close to the client's choice as possible.

Moorhead Public School: All students will be back in the classroom beginning March 8. Solutions Behavioral Health had some extra school-based mental health grant funds, which they are using for additional programming in the elementary schools. Duane is working with Lakeland Mental Health Center to arrange for extra in-person services at the middle school.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 1pm – 2:30pm