



*Success Partnership building Success Families*

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

**Tuesday, April 6th, 2021**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Present: Peggie Chisolm, REACH; Chandra Calixte, Churches United for the Homeless; Leslie Funk, Mobile Crisis Response Program; Maria Lucio, Mobile Crisis Response Program; Lanette Gorder, Parent; Britni Joubert, The Village Family Service Center;

Lanette welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all shared one good thing.

The agenda was approved by consensus with no changes or additions. Minutes from the March 2nd, 2021 meeting minutes were approved. (Peggie/Leslie)

Carolyn reviewed information from the Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health survey with parents and the survey with professionals. The annual survey is part of the LAC's presentation to the County Board in May. Recommendations from the LAC include ensuring that agencies are prepared for an increase in the need for early intervention mental health services. Peggie shared that at REACH, they are seeing four new referrals (children and adults) for mental health services a week, increasing the need for their area. They are also seeing an increased need for mental health services for young parents.

#### Agency Updates:

REACH: The need for food pantry services is down. This decrease is most likely attributed to the distribution of stimulus checks. The agency will be partnering with Nutritional Services to serve the senior populations. Food provided will include frozen meals, bread, cheese sticks, juice, and dessert.

Mobile Crisis Response Program received 98 phone calls for the region during March. There were 48 dispatches, 21 of which were children. For Clay County, there were eleven dispatches, one of which was for a child. The child did not need to be hospitalized—the program provided twenty-three stabilization services in the county.

The Village Family Service Center sees an increase in referrals for in-home therapy. They have hired two additional therapists for the program that will be starting in May. Outpatient providers are booking out a month. Currently, they are running a Love and Logic group. This summer, they will offer a Girls 360 group for adolescent girls. In the fall, they will be offering an adolescent DBT group.

Churches United for the Homeless had three families move into permanent housing that included case management services. This week a family will be moving to Bright Sky apartments. Churches is seeking funding for a basement remodel to add family rooms. The Women's Shelter is hoping to open as they can secure enough employees. Groundbreaking for Silver Lining, a senior living apartment building, will be soon.

Students from Minnesota State University Moorhead were able to return to the Center to provide children activities. A few of those students are mentoring some of the children at the shelter or recently left the shelter. There is a concern among those serving individuals, and families with housing issues will see increased needs once the moratorium on evictions ends in a few months. There could be an increase in homeless families.

Collaborative: Carolyn shared that interviews for the new Collaborative Coordinator will take place next week. The Board will meet on April 29<sup>th</sup> to review the hiring committee's recommendations. Kidsfest, sponsored by the Clay County Early Childhood Initiative, will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at MB Johnson Park. Carolyn will include the event flyer when the minutes from this meeting are sent out.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 1pm – 2:30pm**