



Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Meeting Minutes

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

Present: Chandra Calixte, Churches United for the Homeless; Dave Kemper, Friends of the Children; Holly Wavra, Access of the Red River Valley; Jenni Beilke, Head Start; Jeremy Pratschner, Lakeland Mental Health Center; Joni Medenwald, The Village Family Service Center; Megan Weiland, Clay County Social Service; Merri Christlieb, Freedom Resource Center; Michelle Thordal, Clay County Social Services; Steve Summers, Solutions Behavioral Health; Carolyn Strnad, Clay County Collaborative;

Carolyn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes from the October 1, 2020 meeting were approved. (Merri/Michelle) The treasurer's report noted a balance of #3,191.45 in the checkbook. The council has one outstanding bill of approximately \$240 paid out in the spring for the billboard spot secured for May 2021.

Presentation: Clay County Social Service budget. Michelle provided an overview of the budget. See attached document for review. There are no significant changes to the next year's budget request. The agency did not ask for an increase in funding but requested to maintain funding for this fiscal year. Michelle will get the current amount of funds available under the respite grant. The state has cut this grant for next year. With COVID, respite funds have been used at the same level as in past years. The county is still capping the number of MA children's case managers due to funding limitations. Approximately 300 children are served under case management services. This number includes non-MA, PMAPs, and MA.

Election of council Chairperson and Vice-Chair: Megan volunteered to chair the LAC meeting. Joni volunteered to act as Vice-Chair and chair the LAC meetings in Megan's absence. Thank you, Megan and Joni!

Agency Updates:

Solutions Behavioral Health: The agency is using the CARES funding awarded to them to develop a website. The site will have three sections – youth, parents/adults/elderly, and teachers. The youth section can be accessed using a school email. This section of the site will include on-demand videos, live activity webinars or video instruction, and more. The adult section will consist of resources, family videos, and live mental health education sessions. Teachers will have access to training, videos, and support/connection opportunities. Joe Hammer will coordinate the website. If an agency would like information on their services listed on the website resource, email a short description to jhammer@solutionsinpractice.org

Access of the Red River Valley: The agency has purchased two company cars for the case managers to travel to client meetings and transport clients to appointments. Utilizing COVID safe protocols, case managers are seeing clients face to face.

The Village Family Service Center: A 360 girls group and a Love and Logic class are wrapping up. The next 360 girls group will occur in the spring. There are openings in the adolescent DBT group. The CARES funded walk-in clinic is going well. They offer assessments, referrals, and support. The free clinic operates on Wednesdays and is open for all ages. The agency's annual Wine and Dine Gala, set for November 20, will be held virtually. Joni will send information on the event to Carolyn for distribution.

Clay County Social Services: No updates.

Friends of the Children: The agency is enrolling their second group of children. They are currently serving 29 children and 102 household members. Face to face contacts are occurring weekly and have continued throughout this period of COVID. Mentors have been instrumental in identifying families' specific needs and securing resources and referrals to address those needs.

Head Start: Children are being served in a small class size environment and virtually. They did need to close a classroom to do exposure to COVID temporarily. The 45 day screening period is almost ending. Children and families are referred to services in the county. Staff is working on building relationships with the families they serve. The program is fully enrolled, and a waiting list started for openings that typically occur during the school year.

Freedom Resource Center will be utilizing their FaceBook to host the annual award ceremony occurring November 30 – December 4. Staff is seeing clients by phone, in-person, and virtually. Merri shared a success story about a young woman who helped secure a driver's permit and then worked with Fix-It Forward, who donated a car to the woman. Merri will send Carolyn information on the Freedom in Action Holiday Meal offered free of charge to the community on December 10.

Lakeland Mental Health Center is seeing clients face to face and virtually. CTSS activities have taken place mostly outside with some inside events. The Summer Stay Group has turned into an all-year group with monthly meetings this fall and winter. The agency received some Pay funds to use for therapy activities, supplies, and games. Referrals for case management have slowed down, most likely due to students attending school through distance learning. Referrals have been coming from The Village Family Service Center, Sanford Health, and Prairie St. John's.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 4, 2020

WORKPLAN

- Seek input from the local children's mental health system of care providers, parents, former consumers, and community members on – services needed for children with mental health needs; Coordination of care between services; quality of care provided.
 - Monthly reports from agencies in attendance at LAC meetings
 - Program/Services presentation at LAC meetings
 - Identify opportunities to get feedback from parents/consumers
- Review and evaluate the local children's mental health service system of care and make policy recommendations regarding any element of the local system of care.
 - Communicate Council position to other policymakers and organizations which may have a significant effect upon the local mental health system of care,
 - Review the mental health service mapping project, a co-project of the Collaborative and LAC.
 - Identify presentations for council meetings.
 - Communicate with the Social Service Director and supervisor for any planning the council can provide input on council agenda and work.
 - Share input from the council with Social Service Director
- Provide input in the development of mental health planning in the county
 - Gather information for reports throughout the year.
 - Develop and approve a yearly report
 - Attend County Board meeting to present a yearly report
- Mental Health Awareness
 - Activities determined by the council.