



Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, March 4th, 2021

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Jeremy Pratschner, Lakeland Mental Health Center; Jenni Beilke, CAPLP, Head Start; Jenna Kahly, Clay County Board of Commissioner; Megan Weiland, Clay County Social Service; David Kemper, Friends of the Children; Joni Medenwald, The Village Family Service Center; Steve Summers, Solutions Behavioral Health; Katie Weber, Nystroms and Associates; Carolyn Strnad, Clay County Collaborative Coordinator;

Megan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone shared one good thing!

Minutes from the February 4th, 2021 meeting were approved. (Megan/Jenna)

Treasurer's Report: The checkbook balance is \$4,472.26. Expenditures this month: \$119.90 for the printing of Who Do You Call brochure and Parenting Tips Wallet; \$100 in Cashwise gift cards for completing the LAC parent survey; A deposit of \$1,500 from Clay County Social Service. Future expenditures include the movie rental fee for Kidsfest and the Mental Health Awareness billboard rental fee. Jenna volunteered to be on the checkbook in place of Carolyn's name. Carolyn will check with Amanda Brandt on whether or not she wants to stay on the checkbook. A decision on whose names will go on the checkbook will be made at the next LAC meeting.

The annual parent survey was distributed to Clay County Social Service, Head Start, and Nystrom and Associates. Gift cards were made available to parents who completed the study. Head Start will have a drawing among the parents who complete the form. All surveys are due back to Carolyn by April 15th. The professional survey was distributed via email. Carolyn will resend with a reminder to complete it.

Kidsfest has been scheduled for May 7th. It will have a social-emotional theme with bingo and a movie. The LAC has agreed to pay for the rental of the film. (Update – The Kidsfest committee met and determined that it will not work to show a movie due to various reasons. The event has now been scheduled for May 15th and will be planned as a fun family event with activities at MBJohnson Park.)

After discussion, it was decided to utilize the same graphic for the mental health awareness board. Carolyn will locate the graphic and send it to Jenna for updating.

Agency Updates:

Lakeland Mental Health Center is hiring staff for the school-based mental health services, outpatient therapy, and a children's mental health case manager. Referrals have been up for case management. The Summer Stay group, which now is a year-round program, met last night. There was a presentation on the youth leadership council, and youth worked on vision boards. Jeremy will be checking on the summer youth program provided by Moorhead Police Department. Last year's program was scaled back due to COVID.

Friends of the Children are now back working with the children in the schools. The program's two components of working with the child include in school and the home. COVID had been restricting the program's access to the children while they were in school. That restriction has not been removed.

The Village Family Service Center's next fundraiser is Bowl for Kids Sake. Joni will send Carolyn the flyer to distribute to this group. Referrals for services have been high. Clients are being seen in the office and virtual. The therapist who works with grief and loss issues is currently on maternity leave and due back in the office in three weeks.

Nystroms and Associates are opening thirteen new offices in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Minnesota offices near us include Bemidji and Alexandria. There are immediate openings in the Moorhead office for CTSS, medication management, SUD evaluations, and therapy.

Solutions Behavioral Health decided to provide in-person services for their school-based mental health programming during COVID. They felt that the children needed that individual contact during this stressful time. Services in the school are going well.

Head Start is busy assisting parents in getting their child signed up for kindergarten. Currently, they are serving eight children in a classroom with two adults. Other children are being served through virtual platforms. The agency distributed a pandemic survey to parents. They learned that parents need and want mental health support during this time. Solutions staff have been joining some of the parent check-in calls to offer support and resources. The agency is also taking notice of staff's mental health as they serve high-need families in various formats.

Jenna thanked everyone on behalf of the county for the work they are doing with families. They are looking forward to our annual report in May.

Carolyn reminded everyone of the early childhood mental health webinars offered free of charge through the regional Early Childhood Mental Health Network and West Central Initiative/Blue Cross of MN grant. If you are not available to watch the webinars live, you can still register and receive a link for them to be used to view them at a later date.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 8th, 2021

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 Social Service Director and supervisor for any planning on which the council can provide input.
 - Add areas of input needed to council agenda
 - 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 the yearly report
 - Attend County Board meeting to present a yearly report
- Mental Health Awareness
 - Activities determined by the council.