



Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Megan Weiland, Clay County Social Services; Carolyn Strnad, Collaborative Coordinator; Leslie Funk, Mobile Crisis Response Program; Dave Kemper, Friends of the Children; Jeremy Pratschner, Lakeland Mental Health Center; Joni Medenwald, The Village Family Service Center; Jenna Kahly, Clay County Board of Commissioners; Christine Fike, Nystroms and Associates;

Megan welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all shared one good thing. Lots of comments about the great weather!

Minutes from the March 4, 2021 meeting were approved. (Jenna/Joni)

Treasurer's Report: The checkbook has a balance of \$4,472.26 with no expenditures or deposits in the last thirty days. Upcoming expenses include the Billboard and Kidsfest. With Carolyn leaving as Collaborative Coordinator, the checkbook will need a new signer. Megan volunteered to be a signer on the checkbook. Motion to approve Megan Weiland as a signer on the checkbook was passed. (Jenna/Leslie)

Kidsfest plans changed due to some challenges in offering a movie night. The new plan is for a family fun event at MB Johnson Park. The LAC had agreed to use some of its funds to pay for the movie rights. The Kidsfest planning group is asking that they change that to support kites' purchase for children attending the event. Motion to approve the purchase of kites was passed. (Megan/Jenna)

Carolyn reviewed the summary of three surveys: youth, parent, and professional. Comments included:

- A youth commented on the survey that adults working in the field are not comfortable talking about mental illness, which was concerning.
- The STAY group develops a binder with information on services that they can use once they leave county services.
- The West Central Juvenile Center does a great job of helping youth identify possible services and resources.
- The free bus transportation available during the height of COVID helped reduce the transportation issues mentioned in the surveys.
- There is a waitlist for children needing case management paid for under Medical Assistance. The county has limited dollars to serve this population. Other children served under different insurances may appear to be on a waiting list, but it is a "Processing paperwork" list. Jeremy serves approximately ten families a month on fast-track case management.

Carolyn reviewed a draft of the Board report. She will update the report and send it out for the council to review before submitting it to Rhonda Porter for the County Board report. The LAC typically reports to the Board on the first Tuesday of the month. Carolyn will ask Rhonda to set up the presentation. All LAC members are encouraged to attend the Board meeting as a show of support.

Agency Updates:

Friends of the Children's staff are continuing to meet with new families. Referrals to the program continue to come in. As they look to serve more children, they will need to hire additional staff.

Nystrom and Associates plan to open twelve new offices this year. The agency has openings in CTSS, SUD evaluations, and psychiatry. They are holding a social skills group for adolescent girls, skills for stress in a school group divided by ages, and starting a Dungeons and Dragons group.

The Village Family Service Center is in the process of planning its summer groups. Currently, they have a Love and Logic course that just started. The school-based mental health programming is looking into ways to transition the services to summer programming. The agency is slowly moving to in-office services. In-home therapy will begin meeting face to face on days when the weather is good.

Lakeland Mental Health: Truancy issues are impacting the school-based mental health services. Students are not coming to school and not responding to outreach to them. The agency has hired an outpatient provider and a Rule 79 case manager.

The Mobile Crisis Response Program has hired a full-time staff person to replace Scott Penner. They are working on improving relationships with law enforcement and churches. No statistics were available due to it being the first day of the month.

The Clay County Government Center is open and available to the public. The courthouse will be renovated to focus solely on justice-related issues.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 6, 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.