



Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, May 6, 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; Michelle Mullikin, Lakeland Mental Health Center; Megan Weiland, Clay County Social Services; Leslie Funk, Mobile Crisis Response Program; Christine Fike, Nystrom's and Associates; Jenna Kahly, Clay County Board of Commissioners; Joni Medenwald, The Village Family Service Center; Dave Kemper, Friends of the Children; Carolyn Strnad, Collaborative Coordinator;

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

Minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting were approved. (Dave/Joni)

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$4,072. 26. Expenditure in March was \$400 for the Kids for Kidsfest. Outstanding bills include the billboard for mental health awareness.

Kidsfest, scheduled for Saturday, May 15, will include kite flying, bubbles, a chalk obstacle course, and resource booths. Please share the flyer with families.

Carolyn presented the LAC annual report to the Clay County Board of Commissioners on May 4. There was discussion on the transportation barrier and the process to access medical assistance for transportation reimbursement.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is Thursday, May 6. Members shared their thoughts on the current children's mental health system of care. Input included:

- Proud of the LAC.
- Mental health services did not stop during the pandemic time. Everyone stayed open and served the most needed.
- Through COVID, there was more conversation about mental health that worked towards destigmatization. Mental illness is now seen as an illness, and that it is okay to ask for help.
- There is a collaboration among agencies rather than a feeling of competition.
- LAC is a community of providers supporting each other.
- As someone not directly in providing services, it is fantastic to see the collaboration among providers. Thank you for the work you all do.
- More conversation on the needs of New Americans is happening. Stigma about access is shifting and a change in mindset.
- The LAC is my favorite group. Stay strong!

Agency Updates:

Lakeland Mental Health has hired another outpatient provider, reducing wait time for diagnostic assessments and therapy. They are hiring additional staff for the school-based mental health program. Case managers are gearing up for summer programming and the police program. Jeremy thanked The Village Family Service Center for being a resource to agencies.

The Village Family Service Center is working to keep up with the demand for services. A Girls 360 group will be held this summer. Dates will be shared when they have been confirmed. They are looking at how to serve students in the school-based mental health services over the summer. Clients in the school-based programming are typically seen every other week during the summer months, which frees up the therapist to pick up office hours. The agency's grief and loss therapist is looking to expand her service field to include working with those with chronic illness.

Nystrom's and Associates is currently operating a role play social skills group, Dungeons and Dragons. The game has been modified so that it is not violent. The group meets on Thursdays for six weeks.

Friends of the Children continue to see referrals for the program. A couple of families moved out of the area, which created community spots to open up. The agency is hoping to be hiring two more friends with the next four to six weeks.

County Board: Jenna attended a Joint Powers Board meeting earlier today. There was a discussion on the changes of rates and routes for the MATBUS system. Jenna will send that information on to Carolyn to send out to the Council. Legislative changes are being considered that will implement different disciplinary formats used at the juvenile center. The use of room time will not be allowed. The Juvenile Center here in Moorhead uses this practice to give a juvenile time to think about his/her actions. The juvenile continues to participate in school, groups, medical appointments, and group time.

Mobile Crisis Response Program had 78 phone supports, 64 stabilizations, and 54 dispatches in April. Nine children were served, with two children needed hospitalization.

Next meeting: Thursday, 2, 2021