

# **SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH WORK GROUP REPORT**

**Report of Jane Patrick, Collaborative Coordinator,  
on behalf of the School-Based Mental Health Project Work Group  
January 26, 2009**

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## **Major Project/ Program Highlights**

REVENUE! We are pleased to report that the full grant allocation for the School-linked Mental Health Services Grant from DHS has been received. In a heroic last minute joint effort, the mental health agencies were able to document and provide Jon Steinbrenner with the information he needed to submit the final two quarters' grant reimbursement requests. A total of \$21,552 was received for Quarter 3, and \$24,889 was received for Quarter 4. This left a balance of only \$9 remaining which was unclaimed!

As an extra bonus to our program revenues, an additional \$1,685 has also been identified as the final payments from the mental health agencies for CTSS services and revenue earned prior to October 1. This brings the total amount of projected CTSS revenue to \$31,243.

These additional revenue amounts have greatly alleviated apprehensions by the group about adequate program funding to get through this fiscal year. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen!

## **School Programming**

At this point, six of the eight school districts have identified affordable and suitable options for individualized programming. These new or revamped programs continue to move forward, with new programs building up caseloads as well referral processes.

The group will welcome a new member and supervisor for the Parkers Prairie program with the addition of Kelly Olson to The Village. Kelly is replacing Monique Sebring Avant who you may recall resigned her position and has relocated to Iowa due to her husband's employment. Kelly will be meeting with Parkers Prairie School in February to become acquainted with their program structure and to address changes as needed.

## **Project/ Program Challenges and Concerns**

- Identify suitable options for the two remaining school districts to utilize funding available for school-based mental health programming in FY09
- Identify funding to sustain current programming in FY10

## **Program/ Project Priorities**

- Developing program budgets for FY10 without the assurance of any Collaborative funding
- Monitoring and evaluating program activities in each school district to ensure the needs of the families and schools are being met

## **Long-Term Trends**

At the recommendation of the Children's Mental Health Local Advisory Council, the work group is exploring the possibility of incorporating Evidence-based Practice into their service delivery models. Two of the three mental health agencies have been trained in the model being recommended. By implementing these sound research-based strategies into programming, it is likely that the individual outcomes for students will be improved.

## **Deviations**

Modifications were made to the budget worksheets and projections for the current year based on the structural changes of the program. With these changes complete, it is not anticipated that there will be any additional changes to either revenue or expenses prior to June 30, 2009.