

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative
Working Together...Serving Families...Improving Lives

Collaborative Coordinator's Report
Prepared by Jane Patrick, Collaborative Coordinator
September 21, 2009

Partnership Matters

Membership Changes

We have had several changes with our partner representatives since our meeting last spring. We have a number of new members joining our group from throughout the county and, accordingly, a number of partners leaving their positions as well.

First, we welcome back to the Collaborative **Gene Benson** from **Lutheran Social Services**. Gene has a long, and solid history with our Collaborative and is taking the place of Patty Kline who resigned her position last April. We were sorry to see Patty leave, but very fortunate to have Gene back with us who had previously been actively involved with the Collaborative and with School-based Mental Health for many years.

We also have **Diane Kittleson** joining us today as a new representative from **Someplace Safe**. Diane will be overseeing the shelter activities for staff and families in Otter Tail County. Jeanne Jacobs will continue in her position at Someplace Safe as the regional supervisor, but has reassigned representation on the CEO Group to Diane since Diane is responsible for activities in Otter Tail County.

Next, we welcome **Dr. Chuck Chaney** as the new Superintendent of the **Battle Lake School**. Dr. Chaney will take the place on the CEO Group of former Superintendent Rick Bleichner. Dr. Chaney began serving as superintendent for the Battle Lake Schools as of July 1.

Gerald Gomez of **Prairie St. John's** resigned his position over the summer and **Dawn Hoffner** will be filling Gerald's position as an interim until a new permanent replacement is found. It is exciting to see Prairie St. John's continue to make our Collaborative a priority since they provide many services to Otter Tail County children and families.

Finally, we bid a final farewell to **Maryjane Westra** from **Permanent Family Resource Center**. Maryjane resigned her position in June to pursue social work opportunities overseas with her husband Don. We are very appreciative of the work that Maryjane contributed to our Collaborative. Maryjane was actively involved in the CEO Group, the Trio and several of our work groups. Maryjane's replacement to the CEO Group has not yet been identified, but Jane will continue to keep in touch with the agency to bring a new representative on board when possible.

FY10 CEO Group Meeting Schedule

The FY10 CEO Group meetings will be held from Noon- 2PM on the following dates: *September 21, November 2, December 7, January 25, March 1, April 19, and May 17* (May meeting is tentative, if budget planning makes it necessary). Please be sure to mark these dates on your calendar right away, before other commitments arise. Please also let me know of any conflicts which may impact multiple partners at the table.

Work Group and Governance Board Representation

A list of all current work group members and Governance Board members are being handed out today. All partners are encouraged to review their agency's representation and let Jane know of changes which are necessary. With dwindling resources, it is more important than ever that we have appropriate and consistent representation at the table for work group and other meetings 😊

Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) Updates

We officially received word that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has formally rescinded the rule change and accompanying moratorium which would have again impacted our Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) funding and specifically our medical assistance claiming. Citing from the Health and Human Services Newsletter of June 29, 2009, "These regulations, if left in place would have potentially adverse consequences for Medicaid beneficiaries, some of our nation's most vulnerable people," said Secretary Sebelius. "By rescinding these rules, we can expect that children will continue receiving services through their schools, beneficiaries will be able to access all available case management resources to help them better manage their health care, and outpatient hospital and clinic services can continue to be covered in the most efficient manner." Therefore, this is once again good news for the Collaborative and for the time study!

In other news, it is that time of year again when it is important to remember the front line staff that participate in the time study throughout the year. While there aren't significant changes to report, it is still important that they understand how valuable their contributions are to the time study and to the families served by the programs supported by its revenue. Therefore, I have requested 15-20 minutes at each school this fall to share updates and information about the programs with our participants. I believe that even this brief contact to remind them they are appreciated will help to sustain their involvement for yet another year. (Hint, hint.... Of course a pat on the back from their superintendent can't hurt either!!)

Financial

Income Earned	July – September		October-December		January – March		April – June		Total Annually
	MA	IV-E	MA	IV-E	MA	IV-E	MA	IV-E	
FY99	\$28,487	\$45,667	\$55,922	\$77,508	\$52,280	\$78,720	\$72,613	\$121,980	\$533,177
FY00	30,442	46,742	54,822	103,210	55,563	103,479	81,138	133,229	\$608,625
FY01	38,159	62,637	79,132	148,639	62,572	145,146	93,384	193,783	\$823,452
FY02	43,908	95,000	71,203	143,237	58,665	105,352	90,304	146,239	\$753,728
FY03	60,632	94,218	77,132	109,638	72,066	102,023	93,495	124,056	\$733,260
FY04	50,464	48,457	82,670	53,943	92,865	48,366	127,735	63,130	\$567,630
FY05	73,705	42,470	108,228	77,381	106,799	83,303	140,567	120,251	\$754,704
FY06	16,697	36,356	40,000	58,844	26,184	22,931	32,988	25,081	\$259,081
FY07	20,431	11,663	35,567	18,323	20,154	26,226	34,455	27,706	\$194,525
FY08	17,931	16,659	34,684	25,051	28,746	23,433	31,296	19,309	\$197,109
FY09	16,942	11,945	29,995	22,504	27,732	22,751	28,077	14,846	\$182,474
Total LCTS Revenue									\$4,117,683

Partnership Payments

Invoices for the FY10 Partnership Payments have gone out in the mail. Please process them as soon as possible. As always, contact Jane if you have any questions or concerns about the payment for your organization.

Grant Funding

There has been a whirl wind of grant activity during the past few months which have resulted in a total of \$6,387 in funding for the Collaborative since June.

First, back in May, Jane was contacted by the **Lutheran Community Foundation** about a potential grant funding opportunity. After seeking approval from the Executive Committee to apply, a proposal was submitted to the foundation for general operating support of the Collaborative and its programs. On June 24, 2009, the proposal was approved and we received funding in the amount of **\$2,169**. We were also informed by the foundation administrator that there is a potential for this grant to be on-going since the private donor had designated the funding for Otter Tail County, and for programs that provide "social service type" programming.

Next, the **Zero Adult Provider (ZAP)** Grant came to a close with the final payment being received for **\$2,968** in early July. You may recall that the Chemical Health Work Group applied for this grant in order to support initiatives to address underage drinking. A subsequent proposal was submitted in May to expand the program to the Pelican Rapids community, however, that proposal was not funded for the current year.

The Early Childhood Work Group submitted a proposal to the **Lake Region Hospital** in May and received word shortly thereafter that their proposal for **\$1,000** was funded. These funds were received in August will be used to purchase books for families seen in the Caring Connections program. The Early Childhood Work Group is requesting an increase to their budget to reflect these additional funds.

The Early Childhood Work Group also requested and received funding from the **Fergus Falls Area Special Education Cooperative** for an additional **\$250** from designated Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC) funding to help support the Denise Meyer Sign Language training which was hosted on September 10th. These funds, along with grants funds received last spring from the Sertoma Club for \$400, will be deposited into the Integrated Fund to help pay for the cost of the trainer.

Finally, in August, **United Way of Otter Tail County** submitted a Letter of Intent to pursue a grant funding opportunity in the amount of **\$50,000** for which only United Way organizations were eligible. We received word this week that we were selected to submit a full blown RFP. Mary Phillipe has agreed to spearhead the project and will be working with Jane to pursue this opportunity on behalf of the Collaborative's Truancy Prevention Work Group.

School-based Mental Health

With the structural changes to school-based mental health programming within the Collaborative has come the need for individual schools and mental health providers to meet routinely at the schools to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the programming which is in place. As a result, the large School-based Mental Health Work Group which consists of the eight Otter Tail County-based school superintendents, as well as the mental health providers and county supervisors, have determined it is more efficient to share updates and information about the

program as part of the standing CEO Group agenda. This will ensure that all the partners are informed about what is happening with school-based services.

At this point, SBMH services are available under the supervision of The Village, Lakeland Mental Health Center and Lutheran Social Services in five of the eight school districts. Funding from the Collaborative was designated according to enrollment numbers for all eight school districts as outlined below. It is a sincere hope that all of the eight districts will be able to identify options which will allow them to expand mental health service delivery and utilize the funds allocated during this school year.

	H	BL	UW	PP	NYM	PR	P/D	FF
Enrollment as of 2/09	362	508	542	550	704	956	1432	2415
FY10 Allocation per district	\$3,636	\$5,101	\$5,442	\$5,523	\$7,069	\$9,600	\$14,379	\$24,250

Truancy Prevention Work Group

Representatives from the schools and county met on August 14th to identify strategies and discuss initiatives for the new school year. The group has developed a very comprehensive “Tool Kit” which includes brochures, letters, and many other items which can be used to help track and address attendance issues.

The group continues their focus this year on earlier intervention and prevention strategies in order to try and curtail truancy later down the road. The County Attorney’s Office and Human Services will continue to offer the County Attorney Mediation Program where students, parents and other key people in the students’ lives will be invited to attend a meeting at the courthouse to address truancy issues. In addition, a new component will be added this year where the County Attorney’s Office and Human Services will offer meetings to parents of elementary age students at the schools for students who are identified early in the school year with poor attendance habits. The specific curriculum for this new component hasn’t been developed yet, but it is believe that this new piece will help to educate parents whose children are establishing poor attendance habits at the elementary level, to better understand the resources available, as well as the long-term consequences for poor school attendance.

The most exciting news for the group is the invitation by United Way to apply for grant funding of up to \$50,000 for the Family Engagement Grant. A short summary of the proposal overview includes that applicants must document : 1) the majority of the high school students served by the project are low-income, as indicated by the percentage of free and reduced lunches in the district(s) and schools of focus; and 2) the majority of students served by the project are at-risk of academic failure or dropping out of high school as indicated by characteristics such as failing to be promoted on time, low reading and math scores, and/or behavioral problems, etc.

Children’s Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC)

Last winter, the LAC began work to create additional opportunities for consumers and professionals involved with children’s mental health to learn more about specific mental health disorders. Five informational sessions have been hosted thus far and it is proving to be a promising new strategy. Nearly 100 people have attended these sessions to learn about early childhood mental health, dual diagnoses, autism spectrum disorder, eating disorders and fetal

alcohol spectrum disorders. Each of these sessions has been held in Fergus Falls, but the group intends to arrange additional sessions throughout the county. The group is interested in partnering with one or more communities to provide these sessions, and would welcome the opportunity to arrange training at the request of any of our collaborative partners.

Service Coordination/Community Interagency Transition Committee (CTIC)

As you may recall, the CTIC has hosted workshops for that past several years for youth with disabilities, their parents and school staff to learn more about services available to assist youth with the transition from high school to adult living. Typically the group has been able to work with agencies in the community who provide these families with recourses to help students and parents make some of these important transitional decisions. Presenters have included people from vocational rehabilitation, local community colleges, Freedom Resource Center, special education and other agencies within Otter Tail County. The families attending in the past have responded very favorably to the workshops and encouraged the group to continue offering these workshops throughout the county each fall.

Last year, the CTIC hosted workshops in Pelican Rapids, Perham and Henning. In previous years it was hosted only in Fergus Falls. This year, the group will host sessions in New York Mills, Underwood and Fergus Falls, and then next year host them in Parkers Prairie, Battle Lake and one other community.

The only requirement needed for schools to participate is to have at least one person who is willing to serve as the main contact, and who will help to determine a date, time and place for the workshop. It is also necessary for schools to help identify the families that might benefit from this workshop, and widely promote it throughout the district. The CTIC also shares and disseminates the information with other families throughout the county that may wish to attend.

Thanks to the support of the Collaborative, as well as generous efforts and contributions of several regional organizations, the CTIC is able to provide this workshop to families and professionals ***FREE OF CHARGE!***

Chemical Health Work Group

The group met last week for the first time during the new fiscal year. They are energized about the upcoming year and their approved work plan which will focus on a positive media message campaign throughout the county.

As a first step to accomplishing their work plan, the group held a focus session to determine what aspect of youth chemical abuse they would target for the coming year. What surfaced in their discussion was the apparent concern about prescription drug use among teens. The group determined this will be their main focus for the coming year because it is a topic that there currently is not a lot of information about circulating in the County, and it is also something that many parents may not be aware of.

In order to first education themselves about this alarming issue, the group has invited Jay Jaffee, the Minnesota Department of Health Chemical Health Coordinator, to give a presentation about prescription drug abuse. Mr. Jaffee will be presenting to the work group on ***Monday, October 12th over a noon luncheon at the Otter Tail Power Community Rooms in Fergus Falls.*** This luncheon will be FREE and open to any Collaborative partners interested in attending, however, registration will be required to provide for an accurate lunch count.

Safe Communities Coalition

We received word in July that the Safe Communities Coalition will be funded for an additional year through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. It is great news that this group will be able to continue working to address highway traffic safety. However, one of the primary reasons that funding remains necessary, is sadly because Otter Tail County has once again achieved the concerning status of being one of the “Deadliest 13” counties in Minnesota. While traffic fatalities have actually decreased, other serious injury crashes have risen dramatically putting us once again within a category that we do not wish to belong.

Below is a summary of the data that we used to determine the “Deadliest 13” status.

YEAR	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	PDO Crashes	Total Crashes	Fatalities	A-Injuries	DWI Arrests
2004	8	291	525	824	9	42	404
2005	9	291	517	817	10	37	415
2006	4	277	524	805	4	33	429
2007	7	192	469	668	7	13	434
2008	5	254	554	813	5	27	345
5-Yr:	33	1,305	2,589	3,927	35	152	2,027

On a more positive note, the Coalition is also working to promote and enhance child passenger safety to ensure that our smallest residents are safe when riding in vehicles. Toward that end, the group will be hosting a car seat clinic in Pelican Rapids on September 30th where parents and other caregivers will be trained on proper safety seat usage. This event is being held in Pelican Rapids in order to ensure that the majority of immigrant and refugee populations living in Otter Tail County will have an opportunity to attend. However, it is open to anyone living in Otter Tail County, and **FREE car and booster seats** will be available to anyone in need who attends this event.

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Full Service Schools - contact Deb Wanek at 218-863-5910
- Free Car & Booster Seats contact Jane Patrick at 218-736-3458
- The Village Family Service Center Board of Directors contact Jane Patrick at 218-736-3458
- Children’s Services funding available for children with medical necessities contact Shannon Erickson at 218-998-0935
- State Health Improvement Plan contact Diane Thorson at 218-998-8320
- H1N1 Updates contact Diane Thorson at 218-998-8320
- See other opportunities on the web at: <http://otfsc.org/>