

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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Working Together...

Serving Families

... Improving Lives

Children's Mental Health Local Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

3:30 – 5:00PM November 17, 2009

Dead Lake Room, Government Services Center

Attendance: Jody Lien (OTC Public Health); Shannon Erickson (FFASEC- 5); Sue Ewy (MN Dept. of Health – 5); Mark Lysne (Generations, Inc.); Carrie Beithon, Tracy Ross, Charlie Olson, Janet Athens (Community Representatives); Joannie Gontarek (OTC Probation-3); Nate Larsen (Lakeland Mental Health Center-3); Cori Brown (OTWCAC – 3); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. The meeting began with introductions. The group extended a special welcome to three new community representatives. Sue Ewy agreed to serve as chair for the day. The group reviewed the day's agenda and the minutes of the October meeting. They determined they would set the standing agenda aside as needed to more effectively facilitate the needs and discussions of the group.
2. Jane explained that she would like to see the group take a new approach to the meetings, and felt that with new representation should come new input and thoughts of the entire committee to reevaluate what the group wants to accomplish during the next several months. Jane explained that from a Collaborative Coordinator's perspective, she would like to see the committee become more self-sustaining with initiatives and activities lead by the members rather than the coordinator. Jane explained that a coordinator's true responsibilities included facilitating the meetings, capturing and recording the thoughts of the group and only providing input as needed for activities.
3. An overview of the Children's Mental Health Local Advisory Council's (LAC) purpose and history as was shared for the benefit of our new representatives. A summary of past activities was also shared. Carrie shared the perspective of a long term community representative and how the LAC has helped her to see the "big picture" process versus individual program functions or challenges. Jane also shared a copy of the current budget which consists of \$3,000 designated by the Collaborative from County funds to support the group. Jane indicated that the group may need to look at shifting dollars from one line item to another to help cover the cost of consumer stipends now that we have more involved. Jane also pointed out that training dollars have been designated within the budget to assist families with training needs.
4. The group reviewed their membership to assess who is still missing at the table. Consumer representation at this point is optimal. Mental health partner representation is lacking for the Village and Lutheran Social Services, as well as law enforcement and chemical health. Jane will check with the Village to see what their intentions are for representation. Tracy agreed to touch base with representatives from Lutheran Social Service and invite them to participate. Joannie agreed to check with Kevin Sonstebo from the Fergus Falls Police Department to see if he could be involved or recommend someone else from law enforcement to participate. Jody agreed to check with the Sheriff's Department to see how they might be involved. Nate agreed to check with Nancy Becker, chemical health specialist, to see if she could be involved. Other suggestions included involvement from Bridgeway and the medical community.
5. The group discussed individually what they and/or their organizations would like to achieve from participation in the group. Comments included:
 - Helping families access services and resources more effectively and efficiently;

- Improving the way services and programs involve parents as partners in planning for mental health programming for youth;
 - Networking and communication among agencies;
 - Improving the quality of all mental health systems of care;
 - Community feedback on individual agency programming;
 - To provide input and feedback from the state level on children's mental health for rural communities.
6. The group discussed options for disseminating information about the LAC and its goals and objectives. The group also discussed a resource for parents on available services. The group felt that a resource should include a short summary of each service available. An emergency services resource might include numbers for emergency services related to mental health. Jane noted that the Children's Crisis Program was on the verge of full operation in Otter Tail County and they would want to coordinate efforts for resource dissemination with Beth Zimmerman. The group devised a tentative plan for resource dissemination:
- Make a small emergency services magnet for families including law enforcement, the mobile crisis number, and other local emergency numbers. Also include the website address for a more complete listing of resources available.
 - Update and develop the website more fully and direct families to the site from the emergency services magnet. Jane will forward the current website link to the group for review and feedback about what else is needed.
7. Jane gave an update on the next tentative Brown Bag Lunch session and explained that she has attempted contact with Kathy Simpson about the potential to host a session on bipolar disorder, but has not yet been successful in connecting with her. Charlie agreed to check on some resources which would we could make available to participants attending the session. Jane is hopeful to set something up in the east side schools for December. The group also discussed the fact that the Fergus Falls Early Childhood Initiative is hosting training in February to educate first responders on appropriately addressing the mental health needs of children during a crisis situation. Jane explained that they were hoping to host two sessions but that they were still looking for funding of \$400 to cover the cost of the second session. The group felt that this training would fit well with their desire to educate the community and expressed an interest in partnering with the ECI on this initiative. **MOTION:** To allocate \$200 from their training budget to help support the February First Responder training. (C. Brown/C. Beithon/Carried) Charlie also agreed to check with the State to see if there were any other training dollars available to help support this type of training.
8. A written summary of the Children's Mobile Crisis meeting was reviewed. The group requested that Beth provide a complete presentation to the group at the January meeting so that they could be fully informed of the program. The group is interested in helping to disseminate information about the program as needed.
9. **The next LAC meeting will be held from 3:30 – 5PM on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at the Government Services Center in Fergus Falls. Agenda items discussed by the group will include:**
- **Mobile Crisis Program presentation (Beth Zimmerman)**
 - **Update on Brown Bag lunch sessions including plans for the First Responder training**
 - **FY10 Work Plan planning**
 - **Resource guide and website updates and review of additional website needs**
 - **State activities on children's mental health**
 - **Partner sharing and opportunities for collaboration**
 - **Sharing by partners not attending or sharing today about their goals for participation in the LAC**