

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

Working Together...

Serving Families

...Improving Lives

Collaborative Coordinator's Report

Prepared by Jane Patrick, Collaborative Coordinator

April 18, 2011

Partnership Matters

HOLD THAT DATE! The Annual Meeting of the Collaborative is set to begin at 6PM on Tuesday, June 7th at the Pelican Club in Pelican Rapids. We hope that all CEO and Governance Board representatives will make it a priority to attend this fun and informative celebration. CEO Representatives are also asked to please be sure to personally invite your agency's Governance Board Representative to the Annual Meeting as soon as possible. Formal invites will be mailed out from the Collaborative in May. The current Governance Board membership is attached for reference. If representation has changed for your organization, please notify me right away.

Other IMPORTANT DATES: Proposed FY12 Meeting Schedule

August 22 or September 19, 2011

October 3, 2011

December 5, 2011

January 30, 2012

March 5, 2012

April 16, 2012

(tentative May)

FY12 Budget Planning– Today the final proposals for the budget in the next fiscal year are being shared. I have prepared and am presenting two proposals for continued LCTS and Collaborative Coordination. Other administrative expenses in the budget include parity payments for Grant and Wilkin Counties, and general Collaborative meeting expenses. Based on the requests of the programs, work groups and administrative expenses, you will need to make a recommendation to the Executive Council regarding the FY12 budget proposal. Once the budget is approved by the Executive Council, it will be passed along to the Governance Board for final ratification at the Annual Meeting.

If a budget for FY12 is approved today, it will not be necessary for the CEO Group to continue budget discussions on May 23. As such, the group may wish to cancel the May meeting.

Partnership Payments – Thank you to everyone that has sent in their partnership payments to date. For those that have not, I have sent out the last batch of invoices for partnership payments which are due in the current fiscal year. If you received a second invoice, please be sure to process it so it is received by the Collaborative by June 1. You may recall that these dollars are used to help support Collaborative meeting expenses including CEO Group lunches, work group meetings and the Annual Meeting. New invoices for FY12 will go out after July 1.

Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) Updates

April 1 was the start of the second quarter for the Local Collaborative Time Study in 2011. Thus far, the new electronic reporting system has caused only minor issues, all of which have been resolved quite easily. Participants seem to welcome the more relaxed pace and far fewer random moment notices. With the new system, school staff will no longer be exempt from summer reporting so we do anticipate potentially fewer "reimbursable" responses during the third quarter (July – September) months.

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Opportunities for Collaboration

- The Feed the Hunger Backpack Program is running smoothly with the help of dedicated school administrators and staff, community volunteers and United Way of Otter Tail County. Thanks in large part to the generous financial contributions by Friends of Friends Fighting Hunger in Otter Tail County, the programs are able to access needed funding to continue and grow their individual programs well into the future. Administrators in several districts are looking forward to expanding the program to older students in the fall of 2011.
- The Chemical Health Work Group and the Safe Communities Coalition have been organizing and promoting many activities this spring to address chemical health thanks to the work of Otter Tail County Public Health and the UCare Foundation Grant received by the Collaborative last fall. Diane Thorson with Public Health will be writing a second grant proposal for submission in May to continue and expand the work of the group. Partners from the Collaborative who are interested in participating or developing activities to address chemical use should contact Jane.
- The Safe Communities highway traffic safety grant will also be resubmitted in June. Partners interested in collaborating on efforts to address drinking and driving, distracted driving, child passenger safety, teen driving, etc., should contact either Jane or Diane.
- The opportunity to apply for the Lutheran Community Foundation grant funding will also be available again this summer. The group may wish to entertain a discussion on what existing or new activity of the Collaborative could potentially be funded through this source.

School-based Mental Health

School-based mental health staff across the county will be submitting their Quarter 1, 2011 data by mid-April, reporting the number of students served in each district since the start of 2011. It is interesting to watch the process and see how many students and families are impacted by this valuable program.

On another note, an email requesting input for mental health block grant funding was sent to all the partners last week. The Federal Block Grant Committee of the Minnesota State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Children's Subcommittee, and the DHS/Children's Mental Health Division are once again requesting input for the state's annual Federal Block Grant application.

More specifically, public comment is sought for the 2012-2013 State application/plan to expand the community-based system for providing mental health services for children with severe emotional disturbances and adults with serious mental illnesses.

The committee and DHS are requesting feedback on any parts of the plan, and particularly on the following:

1) What gaps or unmet needs in the children's and/or adult mental health system do you see within your region and/or statewide? (What's not working well?)

2) What strengths in the children's and/or adult mental health system do you see within your region and/or statewide? (What's working well?)

3) Please share any stories (personal or others) that illustrate those gaps or needs and/or strengths.

If you would like to provide feedback, please send it directly to Ann Boerth (Ann.Boerth@state.mn.us), or you may also send it to me and I will be sure it gets back to Ann by the May 23rd deadline.

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Truancy Work Group

The group will be meeting again on Thursday, June 16th at 1:00 at the Ottertail Operations Center in Ottertail City to finalize planning for the reinstated attendance clerk positions. The group is excited and grateful for the opportunity to bring back dedicated attendance clerks in each district.

The Otter Tail County Connects for Youth Program, a partnership among the schools, Human Services and the County Attorney's Office will soon be winding down. At this point student referrals to the program are rather ineffective since school will soon be dismissed for the summer months and little follow-up can occur on attendance habits.

In addition to discussing attendance at the June meeting, the group will also be setting aside time to discuss early childhood screening processes with Public Health. The schools' early childhood program administrators may also be asked to participate in this part of the planning meeting.

Children's Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC)

The LAC is hosting an *on-line* After School Education Session on Cyberbullying on Tuesday, April 19th from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Presenter Jesse Thorstad, Technology Specialist from the Fergus Falls Public Schools, will cover:

- Information about various forms of cyberbullying
- Why it is so prevalent (even more so than we adults realize!)
- Potential risks and consequences
- What parents, teachers and others can do to monitor and help their students and children

Teachers, parents & other professionals are encouraged to join this informative session by accessing it on-line at: <http://goo.gl/7PXbK> (case-sensitive). There is no cost for this session and registration is not required. **Certificates of Participation** will be available to those requesting them by contacting Jane.

Service Coordination/CTIC

This group hasn't met since the time of the last meeting. They continue to work to reschedule a Transition Tool Box event in the New York Mills district which was canceled in March.

Chemical Health Work Group

There is an abundance of activity occurring within the scope of the UCare Grant managed by this group. Many schools in the county chose to participate in various activities to address good decision making for youth. On March 15th approximately 530 ninth grade students from around the county participated in Youth Health Day in Fergus Falls. Feedback from students, schools and the community as a whole was extremely positive. Unsolicited feedback from one parent included:

“By the way, my 9th grade son talked about the BACKSTROM family for several days after their presentation. It made quite an impression on him and I thank you for bringing them here can't even imagine their pain but at least they are channeling it into something good.”

Partners can watch and listen for many more good things to come in the next weeks prior to the end of the school year!

Safe Communities Coalition

This group is working closely with Chemical Health to generate ideas and provide input in to activities addressing chemical use, which ultimately contribute to a large percentage of our traffic crashes. The committee sadly just reviewed two fatal crashes from late 2010, both of which involved chemical use ☹

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Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative Membership – effective April 2011

Partner Organization

Ashby ISD #261
Battle Lake ISD #542
Child Care Resource and Referral
Fergus Falls Area Special Ed Coop
Fergus Falls ISD #544
Freshwater Education District
Henning ISD #545
Lakeland Mental Health Center
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
Lutheran Social Services
New York Mills ISD #553
Northern Connections
OTC Probation
OTC Human Services
OTC Attorney's Office
OTC Human Services Board
OTC Public Health
Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action
Prairie St. John's
Productive Alternatives, Inc.
Professional Assc. of Treatment Homes
Pelican Rapids ISD #548
Perham-Dent ISD #549
Permanent Family Resource Center
Parkers Prairie ISD #547
Someplace Safe
Underwood ISD #550
United Way of OTC
The Village Family Service Center
Wadena-Deer Creek Schools ISD #2155

Governance Board Representative

Sharyn Graham (2004)
Paul Ness (2009)
Beth Achter (1999)
Brenda Mathieson (2003)
Melanie Cole (2003)
Rod Thalmann (2008)
Dwayne Augustus (2006)
Ellen Palmer (2002)
Norman Kolstad (2003)
Jodi Harpstead (2008)
Tim Kupfer (2007)
Wendy Merrick (2010)
Lee Rogness (2009)
Doug Huebsch (2009)
Wayne Johnson (2010)
John Lindquist (2009)
Roger Froemming (1999)
Scott Wagnild (2009)
Tom Eide (2009)
Diane Thorson (2010)
Jenell Bernardy (2004)
TBD
Mike Hamann (1999)
Sue Ewy (2006)
Judy Moeller (2006)
Chuck Hanson (2010)
Lisa Carlson (1999)
J. J. Cline (2010)
Jim Larson (2010)
Ann Pate (2004)

CEO Group Member

Allen Jensen, Superintendent
Jeff Drake, Superintendent
LuAnn Harris, Child Care Specialist
Shannon Erickson, Director of Special Ed
Jerry Ness, Superintendent
Jerry Nesland, Director
Dean Soutor, Superintendent
Clair Prody, Executive Director
Beth Achter, ECFE Program Director
Gene Benson, Clinical Director
Todd Cameron, Superintendent
Maureen Kenney, Executive Director
Chuck Kitzman, Director
John Dinsmore, Director
David Hauser, County Attorney
None
Diane Thorson, Director
Davis Leino-Mills, Executive Director
Dawn Hoffner, Director
Steve Skauge, President
TBD
Deb Wanek, Superintendent
Tamara Uselman, Superintendent
TBD, Executive Director
Tom Ames, Superintendent
Jeanne Jacobs, Director
Jeremy Olson, Superintendent
Mary Phillipe, Director
Kelly Olson, Regional Supervisor
Virginia Dahlstrom, Superintendent