

# SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH (SBMH) WORK GROUP REPORT

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## **FY13 Planning**

The Large Work Group met for the last time this school year before the CEO Group meeting today to develop their FY13 work plan and budget. A proposal will be presented to the CEO Group in March.

## **Data**

Data continues to be collected consistently and reported routinely including the number of students served at the school site. Despite the fact that student enrollment continues to decline county-wide, the number of students receiving school-based services continues to increase. The 2011 combined program data was not yet available at the time of printing this report. However, we do know that at the present time, there is a combined equivalent of 10.2 FTEs working in the schools, and 17 different staff in the seven districts providing direct services to our Otter Tail County students.

## **Informed Consent**

The group also held a discussion today about services provided to students who do not have a mental health diagnosis. Specifically and often times, there are students who only meet with SBMH staff once or twice about short-term situations. Since these students are not being served under a formal treatment plan, there was a question raised about parental consent necessary for working with these students since staff are not employees of the school districts.

One of the primary reasons the school-based model was continued by districts was to be able to make mental health resources easily accessible to students and their families. Technically, the practitioners are not providing “treatment” for these “casual” students they see. The current arrangement is that SBMH practitioners do not need to have physical permission forms signed by parents for students they have casual contact with throughout a given day.

As for informed consent, staff do however, have much contact with parents, both parent and staff-initiated, regarding many, many students. In addition, school districts do a great job of informing parents about the existence of SBMH by putting information in school newsletters and other written and verbal communications. Therefore, presumably parents know that this resource exists in the school, the same as they would know about other services available in the school.

The bottom line is, and always has been, that each agency and staff person must follow the protocols and mandates of their own individual agencies. It is important to note that things will continue to be done according to mental health service standards, and within the contractual service agreements of the participating agencies.

## **Budgets**

Schools may request reimbursements for FY12 Collaborative funding allocations based on enrollment per the chart below once allowable expenses have been incurred and necessary data has been submitted.

District	BL	FF	Hen	NYM	PP	PR	Perham	Und	Total Students	Total allocation
Enrollment as of 1/11	507	2296	364	686	523	926	1437	544	7283	\$75,000
FY12 Allocation per district	\$5,221	\$23,644	\$3,748	\$7,064	\$5,386	\$9,536	\$14,798	\$5,602		\$75,000
Percent of total students	7%	32%	5%	9%	7%	13%	20%	7%		100%