

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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Working Together...

Serving Families

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Children's Mental Health Local Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

11:30 AM -1PM October 9, 2009

Lida Lake Room, Government Services Center

Attendance: Sarah Kampa (PATH-5); Shannon Erickson (FFASEC- 5); Sue Ewy (MN Dept. of Health – 5); Beth Wallman Zimmerman (Children's Crisis Program Coordinator-5); Nate Larsen (Lakeland Mental Health Center-3); Deborah Anderson (Vocational Rehabilitation-5); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. The meeting began with introductions. The group officially welcomed Deb Anderson to the group who has agreed to sit on the committee as both a parent and a professional within the mental health arena. Attendance was low due to other conflicts which reiterated the need to try and identify a new meeting date and time.
2. The group reviewed the content and discussions of the September 11th meeting. The group was in agreement it was best to proceed with looking for a new date and time that would allow additional consumers to participate in the group. Jane explained that the state recommendation is that the group is made up of approximately 60% consumers. The group reviewed schedules and determined they would tentatively plan to meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 3:30 – 5PM. This time should allow for most professionals to attend by keeping the time within the work day. The group discussed ideas generated for increasing consumer participation. They revised the draft letter prepared by Jane and decided they would distribute it in the following ways: a) through school, county and other agency case managers, through the school-based mental health program staff, through a "Letter to the Editor" distributed to all Otter Tail County newspapers, and through a personal letter to the two private high schools in the county. Jane will revised the information and send it to the entire group for distribution. Jane will distribute to the newspapers, to the private high schools and to the school-based workers at the high schools. The members will distribute at the schools and within their agencies to staff that may know of good candidates for the LAC.
3. The group discussed October is Mental Health Awareness activities. The newspaper article discussed in #2 above will serve as one component of awareness. Nate also mentioned that Lakeland is doing some awareness activities to promote their 60th anniversary Jane agreed to distribute early childhood mental health book marks at the Big Read Kick Off event in Fergus Falls on October 12th. The group discussed the fact that they would like to allow for more advanced planning for October 2010 activities next spring.
4. The summaries of the Brown Bag Lunches meetings were reviewed. The group is very pleased with the evaluations returned through this point. There have been approximately 77

people attending the five sessions to date. Jane explained that, despite a last minute conflict at the Fergus Falls High School with an all staff meeting, 16 people attended the September session on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. The group reviewed the requests for future topics and decided that in November they would offer a session on bipolar. The group suggested that Kathy Simpson from Lakeland Mental Health Center present at the Perham or Mills School. Jane will make the arrangements for this session through Lakeland. If attendance is good on the east side, the group may wish to duplicate the session in Fergus Falls later in the year. Jane also shared a book from MaryJo Hoffer about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and asked how these materials should be distributed. The group suggested that the book be donated to the public library system with a label on the inside cover about the LAC.

5. The group discussed work plan task #5 which states that the group will “explore and address policy issues as they relate to children’s mental health.” Specifically, the group had decided to establish an ad hoc group to develop a list of policy guidelines or initiatives in which the LAC might wish to participate. The group discussed the potential conflicts for certain members between “lobbying” for policy change and identifying needs for policy change. The group also discussed the fact that they had recently participated in the Biennial Mental Health Plan submitted by Otter Tail County and that this document outlined potential needs for change. The group also felt that increase parent involvement would allow for those most directly affected by various policies to serve as the ad hoc committee so there would not be any conflict of interest challenges for agencies and their staff serving on the LAC. Sarah suggested that the group also review information from the Region 4 MSSA committee to see how they might work with us to address policy change. Sarah noted that Sheri Meis from Otter Tail County Human Services served as the chair last year and may have additional information on this.
6. Opportunities for Collaboration/Partner Sharing:
 - a) Beth shared an update on the Children’s Mobile Crisis program implementation. Four staff have been hired and are providing service in Otter Tail County. There are still openings for three additional slots in order to provide for the teams as designed. Clay County is fully functional although they are currently struggling with the lost of one provider to the program. Wilkin County is also fully functional although there haven’t been any calls to date. The group discussed the possibility of hosting Brown Bag Lunches in January to help get the word out about the new program.
 - b) Jane shared that West Central Initiative is interested in hosting the First Response training in Fergus Falls. This training is for staff from all agencies that routinely respond to family crisis and emergency situations where children are present. The purpose for the training is to help these professionals better understand the mental health needs of children in crisis situations and how to affectively address these needs. The group was very much in support of sponsoring this training in Otter Tail County but felt that the timing should be postponed until January since the fall season is already full with other opportunities.
7. **The next meeting will be held from 3:30 – 5PM on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at the Government Services Center in Fergus Falls. Jane will make room reservations and notify the group of the exact location.**