

## 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 March 16, 2010

Dead Lake Room, Government Services Center

**Attendance:** Tammy Friederich (OTC Human Services); Deb Anderson (Voc Rehab-5); Sue Ewy & Nancy Bloom (MN Department of Health-5); Shannon Erickson (Special Ed Director-5); Carrie Beithon, Tracy Ross, Charlie Olson and Janet Athens (Community Representatives); Nate Larsen & Nancy Becker (Lakeland Mental Health Center-12); Cori Brown (OTWCAC-50); Kevin Sonstebo (FF Police Department-4); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. The meeting began with introductions, including a special welcome to guest Nancy Bloom from the Minnesota Department of Health. Tammy Friederich agreed to chair for the day.
2. A review of the agenda and minutes from the February meeting was conducted. **MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the February meeting as prepared and posted to the website. (N. Larsen/C.Olson/Carried).
3. First Responder Training – Jane shared an overview of the training which was held on March 11 in Ottertail City and in Fergus Falls. 42 people attended from across the region. Kevin Sonstebo attended the training and shared that it was good information and good in theory, but that it would be hard to apply in practice. It was noted that it would be better if more practical hands on ideas were given and if law enforcement representatives could have participated along with the college on specific strategies for addressing children's mental health needs during times of crisis.
4. A copy of the current FY10 Budget was shared. Jane highlighted the training budget dollars in the amount of \$500 which has not yet been spent. Charlie mentioned that the Consumer Survivor Network conference was coming up in the St. Paul area. Charlie will ask Bruce Weinstock to send information and Jane will forward to the group. Jane shared a request from the School-based Mental Health (SBMH) Work Group to send a team of professionals working in the schools from Otter Tail County to attend the upcoming "Transforming the Difficult Child" conference on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Fargo. Jane will ask the training organizer how parents will benefit from this training. A discussion ensued about how to more effectively get this information out to parents so they can request support to attend conferences instead of directing the funds to professional development. **MOTION:** To approve the registration fees for five SBMH direct service staff to attend the training on April 30<sup>th</sup>. (C. Beithon/T. Friederich/Carried)
5. Jane shared a copy of the FY11 Work Plan which was presented to the CEO Group on March 1. Jane reported that the plan was tentatively approved pending final approval by the Governance Board at the June 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.
6. The group discussed future brown bag lunch sessions. The group would like to do a presentation for families and professionals to help educate them on the changes with Personal Care Assistant (PCA)

services. Sue Ewy agreed to talk with Public Health to try and set this up in May. The group would like to be sure to invite mental health professionals, school nurses, special education case managers and parents who need to know about these changes. If the session is successful, the group will explore options for replicating the session on the east side of the county. Sue will talk to Public Health to identify where the session should be held based on where the majority of families are that are affected by these changes. A copy of the flyer for the upcoming March 22 session offered by Beth Monke at the Fergus Falls High School was also shared.

7. Nicolle Braaten-Toso from Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) and Stephanie Olson from Otter Tail County Human Services shared an overview of their organization and how we might work together with them. Nicolle explained that the Regional Northwest Board has openings, and that they meet once a month to prepare for a September annual training. The group was invited to appoint a representative to the committee under the OTC membership. The group also discussed an idea to give awards for outstanding local service providers at the September annual training. The local MSSA group meets in OTC at the Government Service Center. The group discussed how they would be involved and identified the following options:
  - Ask someone from Human Services (Tammy?) to represent the LAC on the MSSA. Tammy was open to this but felt other options might be more appropriate.
  - Ask an individual outside of Human Services to represent the LAC, such as a local mental health professional.
  - The group also considered that they should not specially appoint someone but would utilize Tammy Friederich as a resource to communicate with the MSSA group when a designated policy change issue arises and then prepare a proposal for a delegate assembly.

In the end, the group decided the third option was the best at this point. The group will closely consider what issues are prevalent for Otter Tail County children and decide what they would like to present as a position statement for these issues.

8. At the request of the work group at the last meeting, Jane connected with Shannon Graves from the Village Family Service Center and asked that she attend the May 18<sup>th</sup> work group meeting. The work group will focus on developing an agenda for this meeting in April. The primary focus for the meeting will be to find out about the new region wide program that Shannon manages and how it benefits OTC families and professionals.
9. Partner sharing:
  - Charlie shared that at the State level that they are getting ready to give a demonstration to DHS for the new website. It is the hope that DHS will fund the site once they are on board with it. Charlie also shared updates on the Positive Behavior Intervention model and the concept of applying it at the local school levels. Charlie will provide more information on this initiative as it becomes available.
  - Kevin Sonstebo brought up a concern at the local level about increased bullying in the schools. The group agreed to put this on the agenda for their next meeting to identify options for how we can work together to address bullying and harassment.
10. **The next LAC meeting will be held from 3:30 – 5PM on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at the Government Services Center in Fergus Falls.**
11. Agenda items for next month:
  - Shannon Graves planning
  - Bullying
  - Annual Meeting Planning