

**Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative
Working Together...
Serving Families
...Improving Lives**

**School-Based Mental Health Work Group Meeting
December 5, 2011 11AM - Noon
Thumper Pond, Ottertail MN**

In Attendance:

Jeff Drake (Battle Lake ISD #542); Shannon Erickson (FFASEC); Jerry Ness (Fergus Falls ISD #544); Gene Benson (Lutheran Social Services); Todd Cameron (New York Mills ISD #553); Mitch Anderson (Perham ISD#549); Kyle Mack and Melissa Walters (Prairie St. Johns-120); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Shannon Erickson welcomed the group and a round of introductions was made. A special welcome was extended to Melissa Walter the newest work group member representing Prairie St. John's. Melissa will replace Kyle on this work group.
2. Updates from schools:
 - Pelican Rapids (Gene Benson) – staff are busy and numbers have leveled off at this point in the school year. There are not significant increases at this point in the year compared to previous years.
 - New York Mills (Todd Cameron) – Things are going very well. Their practitioner has a 12 month contract of which the school pays for about 20% of the cost. Services were expanded at the elementary school recently due to the increased demand in services.
 - Perham (Mitch Anderson) – Things are going well and Mitch is gaining better understanding of how all the pieces are connected. A half-time outpatient position through Lakeland was added due to the increased demand for services. Kathy Simpson, Nurse Psychiatrist is also working in the school 1-day per week.
 - Fergus Falls (Jerry Ness) – Student Assistance Teams are working great for referrals and are meeting frequently. In short, service coordination among agencies is working awesome and the program is doing well.
 - Battle Lake (Jeff Drake) – The value the added staff time for addressing student mental health needs. Attendance is way up this year in their district and the number of students with failing grades is way down. Both are presumably affected by an increase in direct staff time to work with students who are struggling.
3. A discussion was held concerning the proposed changes within the county structure as it relates to merging with other counties for services, etc. The group would like to hear from John Dinsmore at our next meeting about how this may or may not affect mental health services and/or school-based mental health funding as it exists now.
4. Jane Patrick shared updates on the Parent Support Outreach Program. A grant application was submitted by Otter Tail County Human Services for continued funding of \$25,000.

We will not know until later in December if the grant is funded. If funding is discontinued, it would impact support services available to families of children age 10 years or younger.

5. The group discussed the meeting held last week with Sen. Gretchen Hoffman and today's pending meeting with other representatives. The group will highlight the importance and success of Otter Tail County mental health services to the best of their ability without getting too complex.
6. Jane shared a brief update about planning for FY13 and the fact that LCTS funding was very low for third quarter. It is hopeful those future quarters will be more "usual" and that we can recoup losses in the first and second quarters of 2012 to keep us on target with our Collaborative budget.
7. The group discussed the county-wide bullying initiative by the Collaborative and the Children's Mental Health LAC. Superintendents indicated that SBMH staff should be kept informed of the planning process along the way and several will be invited to attend the planning meeting on January 17th. SBMH staff at each school site should definitely be made aware of what the policy is pertaining to bullying at each school. There is a "boiler plate" policy which was adopted by the Minnesota School Board Association and which can probably be located on the website and used for reference.
8. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting of the Large Work Group will be held on January 30, 2012 prior to the CEO Group meeting.