

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

School-Based Mental Health Work Group Meeting
March 2, 2009 11AM - Noon
Thumper Pond, Ottertail MN

In Attendance:

Rick Bleichner (Battle Lake); Patty Kline (Lutheran Social Services); Todd Cameron (New York Mills); John Dinsmore & Jodi Wentland (OTC Human Services-70); Kent Baldry (Parkers Prairie ISD #547); Deb Wanek (Pelican Rapids); Tamara Uselman (Perham-Dent); Kelly Olson (The Village Family Service Center); Gerald Gomez (Prairie St. John's); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. John Dinsmore welcomed the group.
2. The group reviewed the agenda and the minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting. No changes to the agenda or the minutes were proposed. **MOTION:** To approve the agenda and the January 26th minutes as prepared. (T. Uselman/T. Cameron/Carried)
3. Jane shared a copy of the current work group budget. Total expenses have amounted to \$136,395 with revenue totaling \$121,458. Jane reported that the final CTSS reimbursement had been received in the past month from LSS. This will close out all CTSS revenues expected. Totals at this point calculate that a total of \$14,937 has been expended in LCTS allocations to date. Three of the eight districts have requested and been paid program support from the Collaborative at this point.
4. The group reviewed the report of the Small School-based Mental Health Work Group from their February 19th meeting. The summary included a recommendation for FY10 program funding to be allocated to the eight school districts. The proposal developed would continue addressing the identified needs of everyone involved, while maintaining that schools, county and mental health agencies will continue to develop, monitor and deliver programming that will meet the individual needs of children in each school. The Small Work Group summarized their desire for FY10 "collaborative" programming including:
 - Mental health needs of all students, not just those with a mental health diagnosis, will be addressed;
 - Individualized school-based programs with service coordination and systems integration;
 - Mutual partnerships with information sharing and joint planning;
 - Centralized and consistent data collection and reporting for evaluation purposes.

The group decided to request total funding in FY10 is in the amount of \$75,000. It is proposed that this amount will be allocated to the eight school districts in the same manner as FY09 funding, and based on current enrollment figures. This amount represents a 25% increase in the amount of funding that will go to the school districts. This increase is made necessary because in FY09, programming for several of the schools was not started until October 1, meaning that programming costs were based on a 9-month rather than a 12-month program calendar. Since schools will now need to identify funding for the entire fiscal year, it is requested that funding be increased accordingly to offset the anticipated increase in programming expenses.

The amount of \$75,000 represents an overall 17% decrease in funding from the total amount of \$90,000 which was allocated in FY09. Although this additional funding was not part of the original request, you may recall that in August 2008 the Collaborative designed additional funding to the program to serve as an insurance policy in covering any expenses that might not be recovered from the remaining school-linked mental health services grant and CTSS revenue. With the subsequent receipt of all grant funds available, and some of the CTSS revenues, it is anticipated that the work group will not be using the full allocation for FY09 and that these dollars can be reallocated for programming in FY10.

Recommendations for Positions to be supported by Collaborative Funding as of 2/09

MH Staff	Pelican Rapids (LSS)	Fergus Falls (LMHC)	Perham (LMHC)	New York Mills (LMHC)	Battle Lake	Underwood	Parkers Prairie (Village)	Henning
MH Prac	1 FTE	2 FTE – Elem 1 FTE - HS	.5 FTE HS/MS	1 FTE	TBD	TBD	.21FTE	TBD
MH Prof	1 FTE	195 school days	1 FTE – HS/MS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The group discussed the enrollment figures provided by each district. It was clarified that numbers should include the “average daily membership” figures used by the district’s business office when reporting student numbers. This means that the amount allocated for the Fergus Falls district on the March 2 proposal and program report, will be decreased and the amounts to other districts will likely increase since Fergus Falls has a substantial number of students enrolled through on-line programming. The following enrollment figures and dollar amounts were adjusted based on current ADM figures provided by the districts following the meeting:

Enrollment-based Distribution of Funding

	H	BL	UW	PP	NYM	PR	P/D	FF
Enrollment as of 2/09	362	508	542	550	704	956	1432	2415
FY10 Allocation per district	\$3,636	\$5,101	\$5,442	\$5,523	\$7,069	\$9,600	\$14,379	\$24,250

MOTION: Approval of the proposal outlined above for recommendation to the CEO Group and Executive Council for FY10 funding. (T. Uselman/T. Cameron/Carried)

5. The group discussed the challenges for the smaller districts in identifying reasonable options for programming based on the small funding allocations. A concern was noted about the fact that the larger districts have larger allocations and this affords them more options for employing staff within their districts to deliver SBMH services. The smaller districts were encouraged to explore options for combining their allocations to allow for the hiring of one full time staff person that could be shared. It was noted that the smaller districts also needed to take a closer look at options for adjusting existing positions funded by their districts that would allow staff to bill Medicaid and State Health Plans for the services that they are already providing. By making some minor adjustments and accessing available insurance reimbursements, schools would also be able to help provide funding for staff to provide mental health related services. Jane will arrange a meeting among the four smaller school districts, the county and the mental health agencies to begin work on developing programming options for FY10. Gerald Gomez also requested that he be involved in the discussions to see how Prairie might help to provide needed services.
6. The Small Work Group shared an overview of the FY09 work plan summary and FY10 proposed work plan. Jane will be drafting the FY10 work plan as developed by the Small Work Group for the Larger Work Group prior to the time of the next meeting. Coordination costs for the group’s work plan activities will be included in the overall Collaborative Coordination contract proposal as submitted by Jane at the April meeting.
7. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting of the Large Work Group will be held on April 20 at 11AM at Thumper Pond in Ottertail prior to the CEO Group meeting.