

Children's Issues Committee, January 15, 2019, 1:00pm

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers – CEI

Gwenda reviewed the December minutes from the Children's Administrative Forum meeting. She stated that they have met twice since November. The topic in December was centered around a consumer inquiry on being trained in restraint techniques. Gwenda reported that this topic was brought to the meeting by Bob Sheehan. Discussion at that meeting centered around what families can/should be doing in forms of restraint. Pros, cons and next steps were discussed. Life-threatening situations were discussed and acknowledged as an area with a need for trainings. Autism was discussed as well. MDHHS input was requested on this topic. Bob Sheehan will be putting together a summary of the discussion and email that to Kim Batsche-McKenzie in the next few days. Kim stated that she has brought this subject up with Dr. Mellos and Jeff Weiferich to bring it to their attention.

Gwenda then reported on the January meeting. She stated that discussion took place on Therapeutic Foster Care – Oregon model (TFCO). Kim stated that there are 2 active sites currently, with a 3rd site to be added this year. Suicide prevention discussion also took place at the January meeting. Children's Administrative Forum will be inviting speakers on this in February, with Hawthorn Center coming to speak at the March meeting.

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie (MDHHS)

Kim joined the meeting by phone, reporting that Robert Gordon was the new Director for MDHHS. She stated that Sheri Falvay retired last month, so she is the acting Director for Children & Family Services within the Department. She reported that Dr. Pond is the new Director at Hawthorn Center.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan Bolter joined by phone. He reported on Lame Duck bills that passed and those that did not pass. He reported on the Supplemental Budget, stating that other than Direct Care Wage, nothing that affected the mental health system. Most of the CARES Task Force bills did not pass. He reported that the State of the State address will be on Feb. 6th. Bob Sheehan reported that Robert Gordon has reached out to the Association to set a meeting and become familiar with our system. Alan reported that the Legislation & Policy Committee will be reviewing the CMHAM Legislative and Policy Platform for 2019 at their meeting tomorrow. He stated that if there were items that the Children's Issues Committee wanted added, to let him know. Connie mentioned Mental Health in Schools, more precisely a Behavioral Intervention Team they will be implementing locally in her area. She asked that this topic be added to this "watch" list, as well as the Suicide in Youth issue. She felt there were funding and opportunities that were being missed on these topics. Group discussed the need for a model to be used in schools which will address not only prevention and treatment, but also follow-up after a suicide occurs. Group discussed Medicaid Health plans contract benefits. Bob Sheehan stated that we are pushing to have those benefits pushed to the public mental health system to address the problem more systematically. Lack of incentives seems to be one reason for this problem.

Training parents in safe physical restraint – Bob Sheehan

Connie asked if chemical restraint was discussed at the December CAF meeting. Bob stated they did not. Bob went on to state that de-escalation, PMTO, etc. still need to be used, but this topic will be discussed further with the State to address physical restraint options to find what we'd like to push for as a final product, and how we'd like to implement whatever this final product may be. Bob will keep this group informed on any updates that come from these discussions.

Biggest areas of challenge with children/youth/families brainstorm round-robin. What are the trends?

Connie asked if folks were seeing other trends at this point besides the ones already identified today. Janet Reynolds-Snyder stated that children with high levels of need for psychiatric services was being seen more frequently. Federal Legislation will have some use in congregate care around the state, but therapeutic foster care needs to be addressed. She stated that integrating all services that touch these children's lives could be key in working with families in all of these services. Bob Sheehan stated that school-based mental health should be added to this list. Group agreed.

Committee Focus Areas for 2019

- a. Collaborative efforts to support students, especially those expelled, suspended or at risk with mental health needs
- b. Are the needs of the child/youth/family changing?
- c. If so, how?
- d. What are the current gaps in our continuum of services/supports?
- e. Child Psychiatric Beds
- f. Service Models for transition age youth
- g. Lack of CLS and respite services (add 1/15/19)

These will be prioritized before the next meeting, with a poll being sent to the group to help with that.

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 1:00pm, CMHAM office, Lansing. Meeting adjourned at 1:53pm.