

Children's Issues Committee, June 18, 2019, 1:00pm

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers – CEI

April Minutes, May Minutes and June Minutes (added by Gwenda Summers)

Group reviewed the meeting minutes distributed in the packet from Gwenda Summers. Gwenda reported on each of the minutes from the April, May and June meetings. April discussions included SED Waiver including difficulties and sharing of lessons learned. May discussions included integration of physical and mental health services for Children. June discussions included staff retention and ideas in this area. Gwenda reviewed the new structure of the Children's Administrative Forum meeting. She stated that they are holding in person calls every three months trying to encourage more participation in person, leading to more networking and robust conversations. Their next meeting in person will be in September. Gwenda also provided a flyer regarding Parenting through Change. Group asked about workforce recruitment and retention, wondering if a national service was being tapped into for such a purpose. Gwenda stated that there was no national service being used at this time. Group felt that this may be beneficial due to enlarging the pool for recruitment. Group wondered if anyone knew who could spearhead an effort such as this. Kay Randolph-Back offered to help in this endeavor due to her extensive background in this area. Connie stated that she could speak with the Association to see if they had any ideas. She will speak to Bob Sheehan and mention Kay's background and experience in this area.

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie (MDHHS)

Kim reported that she is now the Director of Family and Children's Services at MDHHS – no longer in an Interim position. Kim stated that the Department partners with the Children's Association for Mental Health through Justin Tate, who is with the Department, so if anyone has questions, issues, etc., he may be the one to respond. Mary Ludtke has been hired as a Manager in the Children's Division of MDHHS, overseeing evidence-based practices, early childhood, and a few grants.

Group asked Kim for an update on the Therapeutic Group Home issue. Concern over the revision of Act 116 regarding restraints was discussed. Kim stated that currently the definition of Therapeutic Group Homes prohibits seclusion, and the Department is requesting this be allowed when imminent risk is present, by adding such language to Act 116. Group expressed concern for parents who are not being allowed to be trained in restraint and seclusion in emergency situations. Gwenda stated that Bob Sheehan attended a prior Children's Administrator Forum on this topic. She reported that several attendees realized that families are asking for this and that more information needed to be gathered to see where everyone stood on this topic. She stated that there is recognition of this issue, as well as recognition of too much restraint. Gwenda stated that further action will take place after more discussion takes place within MDHHS, and results are brought back to the Children's Administrative Forum. Group felt that this was a very important issue, and that training for the parents needs to happen, and that there should be significant work done in supporting the family with pieces needed prior to the seclusion or restraint. Group felt that parents would like to have – and benefit from – some sort of training in this area. Connie suggested that Parent Training on Restraint and Seclusion be added to the agenda for updates in future meetings. Kim will let Jeff Weiferich and Dr. Mellos know that this will be discussed in future meetings. Group continued to discuss methods that could be used in these circumstances by parents; both good and bad.

Group discussed the SED Waiver, asking for an update. Kim stated that either Angelo Powell or Belinda Hawks could provide an update at the September meeting.

Group discussed a lawsuit filed by MPAS last year regarding EPSDT services, wondering what the results were of that suit. Kim had no update or information on this.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter (enc)

Group reviewed the handout on the House and Senate Budgets provided by Alan. If anyone in the group has questions, they will email them directly to Alan Bolter. Group discussed the delay of the 298 Pilots and the SED Waiver. No further discussion.

Report on the School Based Mental Health Training (added by Jane)

Jane asked for input from anyone who attended this training held in March earlier this year. Connie stated that the training was specific about mental health programs already in schools. She stated that there were a lot of kids who were being home-schooled who have mental health issues. Attendees looked at models that didn't just 'plop' another therapist in a school, rather the models coordinated services within their area for these youth. Jail diversion was discussed. Support teams were discussed. Funding was discussed, such as 31N (funding for mental health services to address issues within the schools). Gwenda reported that there are structured models and it is now time to bring that group together to develop curriculum and move forward. She stated that the schools are realizing that they need to identify a role in this process to accomplishing moving forward. Intervention team models were discussed to include a Peer, a student, a Parent, etc. Connie stated they will have more updates after the group meets again. Keep on agenda for next meeting.

Biggest areas of challenge with children/youth/families: draft doodle poll – Results

Group reviewed the results from the survey distributed by Connie Conklin. Connie thanked those who participated. She stated that she will be adding herself to the Children's Administrative Forum prior to the September meeting of this committee. She stated that the meeting frequency of this committee can be considered, since there may be deciding factors that affect in-person attendance. Group discussed putting together a document that lists topics/items and whether this group supports or disagrees with it.

Committee Focus Areas for 2019

Collaborative efforts to support students, especially those expelled, suspended or at risk with mental health needs

Child Psychiatric Beds

Group agreed that this was still a topic of concern statewide. Group discussed policies and procedures around putting children on wait lists for a bed. Group also discussed the need for beds for children that have not been seen or evaluated by a CMH or Provider.

Private Insurance and Medicaid (or just private) issues are becoming more and more frequent, and it seems to be statewide.

Service Models for transition age youth

Kim stated that the Department has a 5-year SAMHSA grant called Healthy Transitions. Network180 and Kalamazoo are both providing TIP and are up and running with staff – Clinicians and Peers – already hired. Leslie Pitts is the project director and Cecilia Nguyen will also be involved in the project at the State. Many are transitioning out – either into Adult Foster Care or into the Community.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14pm.