

Children's Issues Committee, September 17, 2019, 1:00pm

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers – CEI (enc)

Group reviewed the minutes distributed in the packet from Gwenda Summers. Gwenda reported that the group has been working to have attendees come in person. The September meeting had over 20 attendees with a robust conversation taking place. Discussion on the intersecting of the Administrator's Forum and the Children's Issues Committee was a main topic for this meeting, with multiple other licensing topics discussed as well. DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie (MDHHS)

Kim reported that Multi Health Systems, who are the owners of the PECFAS and CAFAS tools, has been in touch with the Department. Kim has been trying to reach out to them for some focus groups, with dates being discussed for this. Mary Ludtke is taking names for volunteers to attend these focus groups to get a diverse group from across the state. Mary is looking for 5-10 members for this. The "Super Group" is no longer meeting. Kim stated that recently, the PIHPs requested a meeting to discuss Children's Crisis Residential. This meeting took place, and discussion topics included restraint or seclusion as a barrier for acceptance, which contributes to not being able to take children with high level of acuity. Internal DHHS meeting has been scheduled to discuss that meeting and develop any further actions. Kim stated that this is provided in a Children's Therapeutic Group Home, so it has parameters attached to it, one of which is restraint and seclusion. Kim stated that this has been a topic of discussion within the Department for some time, and they are aligned with the Association views on this particular topic. Kim will keep the group updated on this topic.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities – Kim stated she has been in contact with CMS to suggest the New Jersey model for this. CMS felt more comfortable with the "State Plan" route than the "Waiver" route. The Department continues to discuss internally how they will be licensed. Child Caring Institution is one possibility. Likely candidates will be step downs from the Hawthorne Center. This will likely be a 3-6 Month model. Kim will share this model with the group when she is can obtain it. Two groups have been identified as being in need of these services – Welfare system recipients and those with I/DD or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Connie noted that there are children in those 2 categories who may not necessarily be in Hawthorne Center. Kim is also looking to create some kind of focus group to keep the Department aware of issues as they arise on this topic.

Juvenile Competency Webinar – Kim stated that there is a webinar on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019. This is intended for CMH staff. This would be for children who are found incompetent and ordered to receive treatment.

Angelo Powell sent several documents on Waiver diagram, changes, 1915(i) amendment update and fact sheet, as well as an ABA update. Monique will send these to the group after this meeting. (b)3 services will be moving to the 1915(i), with authorization moving to the State effective 2022. Currently, the PIHPs authorize these, and will continue until that change over to the State in 2022. 1915(i) will likely remain the same except assistive services. Group wondered why the authorization would be switching over to the State. Angelo Powell stated that Morgan VanDenBerg would have to answer that question. Angelo stated that the Hab Waiver was the least impacted. 3 new services added. Children's Waiver Program is changes from contracted at CMH level to PIHP level and will be managed care as opposed to fee for service. SED Waiver will see the same changed as the CWP Waiver. Transitional services are being eliminated. Both SED and CWP will continue to serve as a pathway to Medicaid, and will show as a Family of 1, or Child of 1. Angelo stated that a workgroup comprised of PIHPs and CMH representatives to discuss policies, definitions of services, and federal compliance, with language drafted as a result of this meeting. Kim mentioned that with these Waiver changes, the Medicaid Provider Manual will be getting changed, updated, rearranged, etc. Those edits are being worked on now and should be available for review in the early Spring of 2020. WSA will be locked down from September 25 to October 7. Group wondered if SED Waiver would see a cap put in place for the number of children. Angelo stated that 969 is the max number, but has never been reached, and is not likely to be reached. Currently, and in past years, there have been between 450 and 500 of those slots filled.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter (enc)

Group reviewed the handout issued by Alan Bolter. Any questions from the group will be emailed to Alan directly.

Joint Meeting with Children's Administrators Group to Identify Priorities

Connie reported that she has been talking with the Children's Administrators Forum group to have more impact on policies, etc. at the State level. She stated that priorities discussed with the Forum were workforce, staff capacity issues, unfunded mandates, lack of flexibility in mandates, respite and CLS, among others. Connie stated that compliance measures, technology, information, etc., is all well and good – and is necessary – but these can create burnout with staff who want to help children first and foremost. Group also discussed a disconnect with MDHHS regarding the current challenges faced by all counties across the state. Gwenda stated that continued angst over these issues identified created a very productive conversation and will likely encourage the utilization of the Children's Issues Committee to help at a state level. She also stated that some of the needs for identified services in rural areas were easily identified, but how that is accomplished may not be so simple. Gwenda suggested that creating priorities within this group to bring back to the Administrator's Forum would be helpful. Group wondered if CMHA (Alan) was being utilized enough for policies to be created. Group agreed that he was, but the group needs to provide him with more detailed information to go further. Kim stated that she wants to create opportunities for venues for discussion and facilitate these discussions to address the problems that are being discussed today. Group agreed this would be a good idea.

Committee Focus Areas for 2019 – Will change to earlier on Agenda for future meetings.

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

Child Psychiatric Beds

Service Models for transition age youth

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:16pm.