

## **Children's Issues Committee, January 17, 2023, 1:00pm**

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

Jane reported that the Youth Advisory Committee is accepting applications. This process can be done on the ACMH website. Jane will have the information sent to this group through Monique. She urged everyone to recommend youth up to 20 years of age within their communities to apply. Jane stated that she hopes to leave the importance of youth and families voices when she leaves ACMH. Family Driven/Youth Guided driven policy must continue to be supported and informed. Jane will be retiring April 15, 2023. Connie recognized Jane as a great champion for these efforts.

DHHS Updates – Phil Kurdunowicz, Lindsay McLaughlin, Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Justin Tate, Mary Chaliman – MDHHS

Mary Chaliman spoke briefly about informed consent prior to medication, including Witnessed informed consent. A pilot regarding psychotropic medications is being done currently to help create policy for this. Health Liaison Officers may be utilized in moving forward.

OACYF Presentation – Patty Neitman

Patty Neitman gave a brief review of the presentation that was sent to the group. Topics covered were Family and Community partnerships, staff within the Bureau who cover these partnerships, Child Welfare partnerships, Juvenile Justice partnerships and events being planned on this topic, Education partnerships including Project Aware, Clinical Support and Service Navigation Section of the Bureau, the Child Welfare Clinical Review process (including a shared clinical review process), Clinical Support and Technical Assistance approaches such as pulling in SMEs (Subject matter experts), additional meetings to provide guidance or help to develop safety and crisis plans, etc. Also covered in the presentation were BCCHPS Inquiry Management details as well as the shared review process for that section. Other areas being worked on by the Children's Bureau are collaboration with SHAs (State Hospital Administration) and inquiries for data such as service arrays, access planning, placement concerns and discharge planning. Gwenda stated that some may have felt as though this request was just for Children's Services, and it needs to include adult population so as not to have skewed data. Group wondered if who made the inquiry for data was being tracked. Patty stated it was. Patty reviewed multiple graphs with data results on these issues. Patty stated that if anyone had any questions that she or Stacy could be contacted via email. Connie asked what the process was for when inquiries were received to determine who to contact at the CMH. Patty stated that they contact the therapist or counselor named by the concerned, as well as asking that their supervisor be involved/included. If no one is named, a Children's Services Director would be contacted. Connie suggested that, to avoid connecting to new staff or the wrong person, the Department should try to use/create a list of Children's 'key contacts' for the CMHs. Others in the group agreed this would help to expedite the process. The Director of the CMH would be second contact if no response was received from that key contact. Patty agreed that identifying the Customer Service and Children's Services contact would be useful. Group wondered if the Bureau was focused on needs of LGBTQ+ population. Patty stated that they were, recognizing that a large portion of those needing Children's Services were also part of the LGBTQ+ population.

New Staff and Roles – Kim Batsche-McKenzie

Due to time constraints, Kim was unable to review this item.

Data & Quality Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie

Due to time constraints, Kim was unable to review this item.

EBP Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie

Due to time constraints, Kim was unable to review this item.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Bob Sheehan reported that many of the appointments to committees were long-time allies of the Association. Alan Bolter was not available to review the Senate and House Committee assignments that were provided to the group in the packet of materials. Bob stated that Right to Work, Fair Wages, and Gun Control will be first on legislative agendas. He also reported that the Revenue Estimating Conference last week projected a budget surplus of approx. \$1.9 Billion.

Workforce Challenges – WHERE ARE WE NOW? Demand is up while workforce has become critical.

Connie stated that this is a standing agenda item. She asked if there was anything members were doing to address some of the workforce issues that may or may not be working well at this time. Gwenda stated that salary studies are helpful and they are working on a program with MSU for Bachelor level interns and they must contract with the CMH for a certain amount of time. Gwenda would like to see EBP therapists to be incentivized to stay in the public mental health system. Continually losing Masters licensed individuals to private practice is a hard problem to overcome. An incentive could be every quarter, for example. Cathy Kellerman reported that Newaygo County has been utilizing bonuses, higher pay and education cost reimbursements. They are also coordinating with the County on Job Fairs. Laura LeFever (The Children's Center) also stated that they have performed their own salary study to try to help raise employees pay level and retain staff. Kristie Wolbert (Saginaw County CMH) reported that they are giving supervisors a stipend to take on interns. Connie stated that these were all great ideas and she was glad they were working. She stated that reducing Administrative Burden should continue to be a focus. Gwenda agreed, stating that highlighting why it can be wonderful to work in this field should be marketed out into the community. This work force continually feels devalued and under appreciated and they need to feel good about this work force again. Connie agreed, stating that our workforce needs to know that we are fighting to keep this from becoming a private system. Pat Weighman stated that administrative requirements/burdens such as overwhelming

paperwork/computer work continues to drive our workforce away. She stated that funding through the CCBHCs and funding from the lawsuit surrounding focus will be a windfall for our system and we will need to have some strategies to develop how to utilize that funding. Cathy Kellerman stated that keeping a family structure within the CMHs may help keep morale up with staff. Todd Koopmans agreed, stating that he sees our system doing more and more in Children's system and appreciates it. Sarah May-Steward stated that as a parent of a child with severe disabilities, she wondered if there were any legislative pushes to help fund parents taking care of those special needs children. She stated that burnout is common among these parents who are caregivers of special needs children. Connie stated that she was not aware of any at this time. Support subsidy is common in other states, which is similar to respite care.

#### Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers, CEI December/January meeting minutes

Gwenda reviewed the December 2022 minutes reporting that the topics discussed during their meeting were 31N and school services, duplication of services between the schools and CMHs, and mobile crisis. She stated that some of the barriers are the ability to co-deploy with other providers, but workforce needs be expanded is services were linked together with others such as law enforcement or child welfare workers. She stated that the group would like Lindsay McLaughlin to join and give a presentation on placement for psychiatric, Juvenile Justice and Child welfare.

#### Committee Proposed Focus Areas for 2023

Connie stated that concern over the child mandate and not focusing on what the CMHs provide as services continues to be a problem. There seems to be a sense that the CMH system in general is not providing services to children in child welfare. We must make the State realize this is happening, and we must partner with the State to help them understand what we'd like to do to impact successful outcomes of children's services provided. Connie stated that the items listed below will be addressed with the State, through the help and coordination of the Association, to clarify how we can work together to help the State understand that we are the vehicle to make these services happen, and we need to be viewed as a partner to achieve that. She stated that there is a meeting with the Department next week to discuss these issues and help create this partnership. Todd Koopmans asked if a summit could be held for CMHs to offer information to the Department on what they are doing in their areas. Dana Lasenby agreed with that idea, stating that describing the programs and highlighting successes needs to take place as well. She stated that in Oakland County, they have stories that inspire hope at their local Board meetings. She also suggested data sharing to highlight those success stories she mentioned, as well as to show how improvements can be made. Dana stated that she felt the Children's Bureau is open to this feedback, but it needs to be coordinated, put together and delivered to them. Pat Weighman stated that the new Bureau's configuration seems to look like they would be able to be supportive of systems of care. Connie stated that having a new configuration should definitely be open to being educated on better outcomes and service deliveries as presented by the CMH system. Carl Rice stated that even though we have a new Legislation coming in that is Democratic controlled, we must advocate for children's services to make it to the top of their lists to be addressed.

#### Partnership with the State to improve/expand system of care efforts

Roles and responsibilities, Policy/Process/Funding, Advocacy/Accountability, Gaps in Services/child psychiatric bed crisis, Increase communication and understanding.

#### Create strategies for workforce capacity issues in our system

This topic will be discussed at the meeting next week with the Department.

#### Other

Monique reminded the group that beginning with the March Children's Committee meeting, in person options will be available for those who would like to come to the meetings at the CMHA Office in Lansing.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 1:00pm. This meeting will be held via Zoom and in person (poll- if individuals will come in person).

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:33pm.