

Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

May, 2015 Board Report

Goal #1 Work in collaboration with agencies and organizations to bring about awareness of issues surrounding children's mental health.

- Partnered with the Clay County Child Abuse Prevention Council with LAC funds for a billboard for April which is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month.
- Partnered with the Clay County Child Abuse Prevention Council on an article for KidSource.
- Held a "Spotlight on Mental Health" event which included presentations from twelve agencies.
- Partnered with Moorhead Community Education and Early Childhood Family Education to provide a PACER training on challenging behaviors.
- Participate as a member of the ReThink Mental Health task force which is addressing mental health needs and services across the ages and within both Cass County in North Dakota and Clay County in Minnesota

Goal #2 Identifying unmet needs form a family/consumer perspective

The annual survey of families served through Head Start, CTSS and Rule 79 Case Managers provided the following information:

Barriers to services:

- Transportation - no bus services to Solutions office; need for better bus system, need for help with transportation to appointments; lack of funds for bus fees; rural transportation costly and not available
- Financial – trouble keeping up with all the paperwork associated with receiving the care needed;
- Insurance – private insurance does not cover some services
- Lack of services on weekend and evenings.
- High caseloads of providers.

Strengths of system:

- Having access to case management reduces barriers for families
- CTSS services are very beneficial to the child
- Access to psychiatric doctors is improving
- More primary care doctors are taking an active role in the care of the child with mental health needs.

Goal #3 Arrange for input from the local system of care providers regarding coordination of care between services

- Presentation by Ben Erie from Summit Guidance Counseling Center
- Presentation from Rhonda Porter on county budget
- Provided time at each council meeting for agency updates and discussion

- Added additional members to the council from West Central Juvenile Detention Center, Freedom Resource Center, and Solutions Behavioral Health
- The annual provider survey provided the following information:

Gaps and Needs:

- Access to services for those with private insurance and the costs associated with those services
- Transportation including rural transportation
- Paperwork for assistance overwhelming to families.
- Need for quicker access to psychiatrists and for diagnostic assessments.

Strengths:

- Children’s Mental Health Case Managers have been well received by families and have been very effective in assuring that mental health needs are being met.
- The wide array of options in services, programs and providers.
- The collaboration among providers to see that families are served.

Goal #4 Mental Health Awareness

- Provided monthly articles in KidSource, a Moorhead Public Schools newsletter that reaches 3500 children and their families.
- Hosted an appreciation lunch for Rule 79 Case Managers and their Supervisors
- Hosted a resource booth at Kidfest
- Hosted the Spotlight on Mental Health
- Updated the Who Do You Call brochure

Goal #5 Review, evaluate and make recommendations regarding local children’s mental health system

- Transportation has been identified as a need for the past eight years. Issues surrounding this barrier to services in both the metro area of the county and the rural part of the county needs to be addressed.

Recommendation: Need to continue to work collaboratively with other groups to address the ongoing barrier of transportation.

- The need for mental health services in the rural part of the county is increasing. REACH is working hard to meet that need but additional support is needed for their agency to adequately provide the services needed.

Recommendation: Need to continue to address the mental health needs of families living in the rural part of the county.