

Children's Issues Committee, April 14, 2020, 1:00pm

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers – CEI

February Minutes – Gwenda reported that Juvenile Competency and DBT teams were the 2 topics at the February meeting. The CMH role in Juvenile Competency was discussed. How to increase DBT teams was also discussed, as well as how useful the treatment is for teens. Funding for consult on call teams and other items were covered as well.

March Minutes – Gwenda stated that COVID-19 was the primary topic of discussion at both this meeting and the April meeting. Having roundtable discussion on this has been very helpful. Telehealth has been embraced quite well. CLS and Autism assessments were discussed. Logistics and paperwork will now be dealt with as it has changed to accommodate for the COVID-19 pandemic.

April Minutes – Covered in the March Minutes section above.

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Justin Tate & Mary Chaliman – MDHHS

Kim reviewed the handouts that were provided to the group in the packet. Kim stated that many of the services provided by Children & Family Services were considered essential. The flexibility and creativity being used by the system is impressive. She reported that at the Children's administrative forum there were a lot of positive's shared, such as

- 100% show rate for telehealth psychiatric contacts which are typically a 60% show rate (Washtenaw)
- Increase in Wraparound team member participation (Right door- Ionia)
- Sending supplies to families (phone minutes, activities) Hiawatha
- Sending care packages to families (CMH Central Michigan)
- CLS staff doing virtual tours with children (CEI)
- Outpatient and home-based therapy reporting increased clinical contacts (CMH for Central Michigan)
- Clinicians attending school food pick up to see children and families (St. Joes)
- PTC groups are going via Zoom (Several sites)
- Creative ideas to support staff (all)

Kim gave many details of different things being done in multiple regions concerning PMTO, staff supporting each other, and other topics. BHDDA has updated documents on their website, which Kim will provide to the group. Kim reported that there is a Peer Support warm line up and running. There is a FEMA crisis counseling grant that has been applied for which will also become a warm line. Kim spoke about an Executive Order which expanded Child Care Centers to be labeled "disaster childcare centers", which are to provide childcare for emergency workers. Kim spoke about the COFR memo that went out February 28, which clarifies residential issues in County of Financial Responsibility cases. She stated that direct care staffing and financial stability are top priorities being discussed at the State. Kim then spoke about Youth Peer Support Service which is going out for public comment soon. The Service is being expanded to young adults up to age 26. She will make sure that when it goes out for Public Comment that it gets sent to this group. Group discussed the warm line that Kim spoke of earlier, wondering how it helped with children. Kim stated that she only intended to share information for the purpose of clarification, but it was not specifically identified for Children.

Justin Tate stated that the Facilitator Training was extended. He stated that some guidance came out for providers on wraparound services. Youth Peer Support Specialist cohort has also been delayed. Virtual training has been scheduled for April 29 to train those who have already been hired, with the 5-day training to be rescheduled to a later date.

Mary Chaliman stated that the lack of face to face contact has been the most difficult aspect since the start of COVID-19. Other contact with foster parents and kids is being done virtually. She stated that foster parents, when surveyed, stated that their highest needs were childcare, accessing medical and health services, and obtaining adequate income. She reported that there is a Town Hall meeting tonight at 6pm for parents of children receiving services. Mary stated that there were a couple of Medicaid cases that closed automatically that they have had to re-open quickly, but they are staying on top of things. Group discussed how shopping could be done for those clients with Bridge Cards who are unable to get out to get groceries. Mary stated that if the client is willing to share their PIN codes with the worker who would be doing the shopping, that would work. Mary will take this issue back to get answers and email Connie.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Group reviewed the memo provided by Alan Bolter with legislative updates. He stated that the update sent had several COVID related legislative items included in it. He stated that one of the biggest things the Legislature will work on when they return is the Budget. He stated that anticipated economic losses could be as high as \$1 to \$3 Billion dollars from the COVID-19 pandemic, and possibly \$3 to \$4 Billion in losses next fiscal year. He went on to state that the \$3 to \$5 Billion in federal stimulus dollars is earmarked for how those get prioritized. The Legislature may use Rainy Day fund, and vetoes may free up other funds as well. Taking all of this into consideration, the Legislature is likely to look at everything across the board on how to fix the Budget. Rep. Schroeder sponsored HB 5482 which was to be introduced but removed from the agenda due to COVID. This bill would see Student IDs requiring a Suicide hotline of some sort (local, State or National).

COVID-19 Roundtable Discussion

Connie asked if there were any issues that were specific to Children in the world of COVID-19. She stated that they have seen an upswing in Children needing services. Gwenda stated that CEI reported they are seeing the same. CLS and respite are highly needed, but that is hard to provide right now. Group discussed different types of respite services being done virtually, using Zoom to

play games, etc. Kim asked the group if Psychiatric inpatient admissions were currently down. Connie stated yes, but with new clients, admissions were up. Group felt the decrease was due to no access. Many are seeing increases in Domestic Violence.

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

Jane stated that they are trying to push out as many resources as they can through Social Media. She encouraged everyone to share that information with Providers in their networks as well as other. Parent inquiries they are receiving right now center around guidelines in staying home, respite services, virtual mental health assessments and supporting children's learning needs. Jane stated that these parents are stressed and scared. Reassurance is needed, which increases the needs for the "warm lines" being created.

Communication is needed now more than ever before. Training and Coaching is taking place at ACMH for Youth Peer Support as often as possible – these services are going to be needed tremendously moving forward due to Trauma. Advocacy efforts are taking place for children who need to be placed, for protections to keep special education in place, and many other topics. Children's mental health awareness day was cancelled. Youth advisory committee is working on how to still bring awareness to this issue. They came up with #truecreativity as an event. Plans for this are underway to be executed in social media. Jane will forward information to Monique to send to the group.

Committee Focus Areas for 2020

No discussion on this item.

Other – No other business.

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 1:00pm, CMHA office, Lansing.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm