

## **Children's Issues Committee, November 17, 2020, 1:00pm**

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

### October Minutes

Gwenda reviewed the minutes which focused on CLS and respite as it relates to schools, brought on by the Pandemic. Difficulties regarding how to provide these services under Pandemic conditions were also discussed. She stated that requests for these services were extremely high. Changes in COVID needs were discussed as well. Visions of discharge and returning kids to their communities was discussed. Details included involvement for intensive plans and intensive services. Staff retention continues to be an enormous difficulty.

### November Minutes

Gwenda stated that much of the same details were discussed as in the previous meeting. Detailed minutes will be provided to the group.

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Mary Chaliman, Belinda Hawks, Jeanette Scheid – MDHHS

Kim provided details from an October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting between the Department and PIHPs.

### Summary of Concerns:

- Children involved in child welfare and children with I/DD, autism and behavioral health needs are the hardest to find beds for. Many acute psychiatric hospitals will also deny youth based on age, acuity, aggression and if they learn they are involved in the child welfare system.
  - Hawthorn Center is admitting child and youth who are being denied by acute psychiatric hospitalization with an uptick in children involved in child welfare.
  - Some CMHSPs report that Hawthorn is being used to meet a residential placement need for children involved in child welfare. CMHSPs are concerned about the bed availability for children who are not involved in the child welfare system.
  - ED's are sending children home before a bed can be located.
  - There has been a decrease in the provision of crisis residential due to staffing issues. (only 4 MDHHS enrolled statewide)
- There continues to be an issue with taking children with more significant needs because per license the facilities cannot restrain or seclude.

Kim reported that she appreciated being involved in the Children's Administrative Forum. She stated that discussions around backlog in psychiatric hospitalization and when children are coming out of Hawthorn, CMHs need more time to create service plans for these kids. Wraparound and supports coordination continues to be of importance. Kim asked that those interested to better services for kids be open to suggestions of proactivity from Child Welfare. System of Care Grants are available. Discussions began around Crisis Stabilization but have evolved from there to better support kids in the community to be much broader. Group discussed how strategies may need to differ across multiple areas according to their demographics. HealthWest, Kalamazoo and Saginaw, among others, are involved in these discussions.

Kim stated that the KB lawsuit is moving forward. Date for the implementation plan to be presented has been moved out beyond the end of December, but official date is unknown. Data collection and analysis on strengths and weaknesses of the system continues to be looked at.

Kim reported that Al Jansen is gathering questions from CMHs and PIHPs regarding the Emergency Order issued by MDHHS which takes effect Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020.

Kim reported that they are updating tech requirements for children with SED. Age will include 18-21, so EPSDT. Family Driven Youth Guidance Policy is also being updated. This is currently in development with help from ACMH.

Belinda stated that groups involved in HCBS Heightened Scrutiny are asking for a pause in this process. Belinda will be working with MSU to see if this can be done. DHHS is working with Miliman and CMHA to create and send out a survey on service costs and indirect & direct staff costs.

Mary Chaliman stated that Qualified Residential Treatment Programs are being worked on. Maximus is an independent contractor being used to do assessments to determine if QRTP is needed. Maximus would like to do a short presentation to show what the process for these assessments would look like. This could be done for this committee or the Children's Administrative Forum. Details and requirements of QRTP were discussed such as 24-hour Nursing and After Care. If the child does not meet the requirement for QRTP placement, this could have a direct impact on CMHs.

Jeanette Scheid stated that gaps in MH needs for kids has been in the forefront of her work greatly. Transitioning for these kids has created multiple issues; sometimes even dangerous. Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) requires 24-hour nursing coverage to help avoid these issues including a better information transfer. Group wondered if Providers may be lost due to the heightened certification needed to stay certified. Jeanette stated that some Providers are choosing to use other forms of certification, but many are using FFPSA. Group would like to have Bob/Alan add Child Welfare issues added to DF in the future.

Kim stated that PRTF is a Medicaid service that needs to be added to be a covered plan in the State of Michigan. Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities is a project being worked on by Krista Hauserman and Jon Villasurda, but this has been put on hold due to other hot topic items. With the need for PRTF beginning to increase, Nick Norcross from MDHHS will now be the lead for this project as it begins to ramp back up. Group asked for more details on this project. Kim stated that the link between community-based

care and hospitalization would be covered by this service. Michigan believes strongly in home and community-based care. The PRTF service looks to fill a gap for those children who are beyond community-based care, but do not need acute hospitalization. Group agreed to keep PRTF on as recurring agenda item.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter (enc)

Alan reviewed the Election recap sent to the group. He stated that Democrats gained control of the Michigan Supreme Court with a majority of 4-3. He also reported that the Republicans maintained a 58-52 majority of the House. Some thought Democrats would flip control of the House, but this did not happen. Leadership elections in the House were done on November 5, and those are listed in the report issued to this group.

Alan reviewed the Lame Duck document that was sent to the group. The Legislature is scheduled to return for Lame Duck the first week of December, but with the recent DHHS Emergency Orders, it is unknown how the Lame Duck session will go and remains to be seen. The document contains multiple bills that should be watched during Lame Duck. PRTF bill continues to move as well as the bill that would require MHFA for teachers. Alan reviewed some of the other bills listed within this document. Alan will be sending out updates weekly during the Lame Duck process. The Governor has asked the Legislature for their COVID plan, and this may be something that will be worked on in the next few weeks. Alan stated that any bills that are not signed into law as a result of Lame Duck will need to start the process anew in January 2021.

COVID-19 Roundtable Discussion

Items discussed were Children and Family Specific Data, Trends and Programming Needs, Telehealth Recommendations, and Child Psychiatric Beds Crisis.

Support for schools

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

Jane reported that ACMH will be holding a Parent leadership camp on December 10, 2020. Youth Leadership Camp will be held on February 11, 2021. Many of the participants from these camps go on to serve on the Parent Advocacy Committee or Youth Advocacy Committees. She reported that the Family Driven Youth Guided Policy is being updated with MDHHS currently. She urged folks to visit [www.acmh-mi.org](http://www.acmh-mi.org) for tips to help with children, services and needs in this time of COVID.

Committee Focus Areas for 2020-How did we do? Need to refine our focus to 1 or 2 items.

Identified at previous meeting: Policy, Advocacy, Input & Themes, Deconstructing Youth Suicide, Service Delivery Flexibility, Staff Retention, Collaborative efforts to support students, especially those expelled, suspended or at risk with mental health needs, Child Psychiatric Beds, and Service Models for transition age youth.

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 1:00pm, and may still be held via Zoom. More details will be known as we get closer to 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.