

Children's Issues Committee, January 19, 2021, 1:00pm

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie & Justin Tate – MDHHS

Kim spoke about the KB Lawsuit. She stated that environmental data is being reviewed. After this, other stakeholders will be contacted for additional input. The plaintiff's council has been very understanding with the delay in developing a plan for implementation with the current pandemic conditions. Kim also reported that DHHS is trying to get a count of individuals who need to be vaccinated at home due to I/DD, Autism or SED. Group wondered, since neither vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) can be given to youth under 17 years old, why these questions were being discussed. Kim stated that since some receiving services are over 17, as well as taking families into consideration, she wanted to get this committee's input. Group felt that this was too early to worry about since most are still trying to get their group homes vaccinations done. Kim stated that regarding PRTF and Crisis Stabilization Units, she sent some information to this group. State Hospital Administration is taking the lead on PRTF to begin work on getting these up and running. She went on to say that no funding is tied to the Crisis Stabilization Unit legislation. The Department is starting to plan for certification of these Units. Diversion from Hospital to Inpatient settings is the goal of these units. Certification from the Department would be for whoever is running these Units. Multiple stakeholders will be contacted for input of the development of this certification process. Connie asked Kim if Hawthorn Center was reopened. Kim stated that the 2-week closure (due to COVID) is not complete yet, but she will check and see when it will be opening back up. Kim reported that the US HHS department renewed the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Info will be sent to the group.

Justin Tate stated that trainings for Evidence-Based Practices for children continue to take place virtually. He reported that they are updating Family Driven Youth Guided policy, and this is under review with the PIHPs. He stated that the Department has 3 openings in the Children's Department. They hope to have these filled soon.

Connie gave an update to the Department, stating that Livingston County has seen a huge intake of younger children recently. This trend seems to be due to COVID related issues. Erin Nostrandt confirmed that CEI was seeing the same trend. Heidi Fogarty also confirmed that St. Clair CMH is seeing this. Kim stated that CSA Director Chang is focused on removing seclusion and restraints and is pushing for supporting children in the system safely. Julie Bayardo, of Central Michigan CMH, stated that they are seeing the biggest turnover in Children's Staff that they have ever seen. Julia Rupp stated that the Western side of the state is seeing large turnover as well. Group agreed that recruitment and wages were a huge issue, too.

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Erin Nostrandt, CEI, filled in for Gwenda Summers

December Minutes

Erin reviewed the minutes that were distributed to the group. She stated that the December discussions centered around mobile crisis units, maintaining engagement with families, and staff retention.

January Minutes

Erin stated that discussions at the January meeting centered around transitional aged youth. Presentation was done at this meeting.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan reviewed the Lame Duck Report that was sent to the group. He reviewed multiple items that passed – of most importance the PRTF Bill and Crisis Stabilization Unit Bill. He stated there will need to a tremendous amount of work put in to get these up and running. Alan stated that the PRTF Bill may need some waiver work done for implementation. He went on to state that the Department will be creating a certification process for those wanting to operate a Crisis Stabilization Unit. He reported that the Department is seeking funding on that certification process. More discussions on funding for these units will take place over the next year.

He stated that the Governor signed the Supplemental bill that includes the extension of the Direct Care Worker wage increase. The Association feels that another supplemental will be discussed in the next few months. Alan went on to report that the January Revenue Estimating Conference took place last week that showed approx. \$2.5 Billion in surplus due to federal relief dollars, the economy turning around in a positive direction, etc. Hopefully, this will encourage further extending the DCW wage increase. Alan then reported that the Governor will be giving her State of the State address next week, but there will likely be nothing behavioral health related in that. The House and Senate are not currently in session and nothing is likely to happen until early February. Group discussed the need for Direct Care Workers and Peer Support Specialists, and the wages they receive. Alan gave details of a coalition run by the State that encourages and rewards Peer Support Specialists positions.

COVID-19 Roundtable Discussion

Children and Family Specific Data, Trends and Programming Needs; Telehealth Recommendations; Child Psychiatric Beds Crisis; and, Support for schools

Connie stated that the above needs are still valid. She reported that the topic of COVID vaccines should be kept on the radar. She asked the group if there were any other topics that need to be added to this list.

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

Jane reported that there is a Youth Leadership Camp coming up on Feb. 11th and March 11th. The first day will be spent working with RJ Cache, who uses Improv to encourage confidence. The second date will be a panel discussion using skills learned during the February date.

Parent Leadership Camp will be taking place in 2-hour segments with each segment having a specific topic. These will be on March 18, April 15, and May 13. Registration for both events will be on the CMHA website.

ACMH is looking for applications for the Parent Advisory Committee.

Jane stated that there will be a Parent Support Partner Cohort on February 22-26, 2021. The next Youth Peer Support Cohort will be on March 3-5, 2021.

Jane stated that they are hearing from a lot of Parents that they are just burned out. Providing support for those parents during this pandemic is crucial and ACMH is trying to increase their support efforts.

Committee Focus Areas for 2021

Connie stated that recruitment and retention needs to be discussed at next meeting.

Identified at previous meeting:

Policy, Advocacy, Gaps in Services, Collaborative efforts to support students, especially those expelled, suspended or at risk with mental health needs and Child Psychiatric Beds.

Connie stated these continue to be a crisis wondering what type of advocacy can be done is unknown. Children's Crisis residential facilities is also an issue that needs to be kept on the radar. Group discussed that children who are ready to be placed are not accepted in a lot of places. CRU's may not be able to manage these children.

Service Models for transition age youth

Other

Monique reminded the group that there was a Co-Chair vacancy that needs to be filled by a Board Member. Anyone interested should email Monique. Tina Hicks stated that she may be interested in this position. Carl Rice gave details of the Youth Suicide Summit held in December 2020. Youth Suicide Summit II will be held on March 3, 2021.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 1:00pm. This meeting will be held via Zoom. Carl Rice will give a brief summary of the March 3, 2021 Youth Suicide Summit at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.