

Children's Issues Committee, April 20, 2021, 1:00pm

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Mary Chaliman – MDHHS

Kim stated that a memo was sent regarding face-to-face services. Jeff Wieferich received questions on psychiatry, which this memo does not apply to. Kim went on to report on children boarding in Emergency Departments. She has indicated to the Department that this issue needs to be top priority. She stated that COVID has increased the need for these beds. She urged anyone with information/suggestions to help find solutions for this issue. Kim stated that updates have been done on the Family Driven Youth Guided Policy. Updates are in the final stages of being approved in the contract negotiations process. Christine Gebhard asked for an update on Autism qualified professionals. Kim stated that Morgan VanDenBerg will be giving an update on this to the Children's Administrative Forum, and Kim/Monique will invite her to the June 22nd CIC meeting. Kim then reported on the topic of training parents in physical management of children with SED. She stated that the Department issues strength-based management guidance as opposed to physical management. George Botbyl stated this was unfortunate and seemed that the Department does not care. Kim stated that preventing abuse and neglect was a high priority, but it was not their place to issue physical guidance. Connie stated that therapeutic group homes has been discussed in the past on this issue as well. Kim stated that in the past, the Department drafted language on this topic, and no sponsor was found so it died out. The Department has found that no one wants to sponsor language that promotes restraint, even when it is in the best interest of the child. Connie stated that she does not want folks to lose focus of the importance of the child psychiatric bed crisis while discussing other issues being covered in discussions today. Group wondered if there was information on the child psychiatric bed crisis from other states or was Michigan the only state experiencing this. Group also wondered if other states had use legislation to force the acceptance of children to these beds. Kim stated that she will be asking these questions in meetings she attends.

Mary Chaliman reported they are working on implementation of Qualified Residential Treatment Programs. If it is determined that the child does not need QRTP, a meeting is held to see why they did not qualify, and what services are available in the community for that child. She reported that they have contracted with Building Bridges to learn more about trauma and how to best forego seclusion and restraint. She stated that residential is responsible for 6 months of after-care when a child returns to the community, and the Building Bridges initiative is fairly new, so no data is available yet. Christine Gebhard asked if a document was available on the QRTP assessment and referral process for residential placement. Mary will forward to Connie to send out to the group. Group wondered if these assessment services could be used for children in the CMH system. Mary stated no – it is only being used for children being supervised by the State. Group suggested having Dr. Lyons speak to this group about the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool, which could be helpful in conversations on helping determine level of care for these children.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan reported that the House will report their budget recommendations tomorrow morning, and the Senate will report their budget recommendations on Thursday. He reported that the last 2 COVID packages that were passed have only seen \$3 Billion appropriated of the funds. The legislature will now try to appropriate more of these funds in these proposed budgets. He reported that the MDHHS appointment of Elizabeth Hertel was NOT rejected by the Senate and is now confirmed.

Alan gave details of Senator Shirkey's plan entitled "Gearing Towards Integration" document that was provided in the packet. He reviewed the carve-in proposal that would be done in phases to remove funding from PIHPs to give to private entities, or "SIPS". He reviewed details of what the plan outlined, and how these details would not work for those populations currently served by the publicly funded system. The document points to the KB Lawsuit as an integration model to start these efforts, and this clearly lays out that the PIHP system would be eliminated. The timeline for this plan is extremely aggressive (present to the Governor by mid-June), but will most likely be late summer or early fall before anything is ready to be presented to her. Alan stated that this will likely pass the Senate, but the question remains to be seen if the House will support it. Alan and Bob met with Director Hertel last week, who indicated she would like to focus more on access and other items before focusing on this plan. Alan stated that the Governor may be enticed to pass this plan if the Legislature offers funding be allocated where she would like to see those dollars go. The Association would like to identify gaps in the system and show how those gaps have been addressed by initiatives such as CCBHCs, PRTF, etc. There are many infographics being created to show this. Alan stated that bills will likely be created in the next month. Advocates are meeting with Senator Shirkey's office later this

week. Group asked about HMOs [Health Maintenance Organizations (Federal verbiage) or Health Management Organizations (State verbiage)] and if there was a difference. Alan stated no. Group also wondered about compliance with EPSDT from screening to diagnosis, and whether there was an assessment to show efficacy. Alan stated that there were no reporting requirements whatsoever. Alan has asked that legislation be added to require reporting of this data to show their ability to provide oversight and administration.

Child Psychiatric Bed Crisis

Request for point in time data when Bed is not secured within 24 hours, Review state capacity of child beds, Create Advocacy plan and partnership with hospitals/state to admit CMH children, Address challenges of finding beds for children involved in DHS, and Accountability to address service capacity needs like other services in the Medicaid Provider Manual, other strategies (PRTF, crisis stabilization, etc.) may reduce need but it is not the solution to this problem. Discussion of these items were tabled to the June meeting.

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

Jane reported that she will be at the Advocates meeting later this week regarding Senator Shirkey's Healthcare Integration efforts. Jane then familiarized the group with who she was and the organization she represents (Association for Children's Mental Health). She spoke about the Family Driven Youth Guided Policy that was recently updated with the State. She would like to continue to discuss this policy with this group to be added on the agenda as a standing item. Add Family Driven Youth Guided Policy to agenda as standing item under ACMH Update section. Jane stated that ACMH is doing a virtual event called Walk In My Shoes, using the hashtag #WalkInMyShoes. It will be held on May 7, 2021.

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers, CEI

April Minutes were provided in packet. No discussion.

Committee Focus Areas for 2021 were tabled to the June meeting.

Child Psychiatric bed Crisis and threats to our Children's system of care efforts/KB lawsuit
Policy, Advocacy and Gaps in Services

Create strategies for workforce capacity issues in our system.

Other

Connie stressed that the Healthcare Integration efforts will need to be monitored closely. There may need to be an additional meeting called before the June meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 1:00pm. This meeting will likely be held in-person AND via Zoom. More details will be sent closer to the meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14pm.