

Children's Issues Committee, June 22, 2021, 1:00pm

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

Mary Chaliman reported that she did not have much in the way of updates. There was a leadership meeting today with updates on the KB Lawsuit, but no new information. They are still looking to hire an out of home Bureau Director and in-home Bureau of Director. They are working with Maximus on assessments which utilizes an assessor using CANNES. Group wondered if there was a document for the QRTP process. Monique will send this out to the group.

https://maximusclinicalservices.com/svcs/michigan_qrtp Link for Maximus.

Kim Batsche-McKenzie reported that the final settlement is being discussed on the KB Lawsuit. KB vs. Lyon is now being referred to MI Kids Now. Kim stated there was an environmental scan, stakeholder meetings, and DHHS has been reviewing recommendations from these. No information on these recommendations has been released yet. Phil Kurdunowicz has reported that the Department is about to enter into a workgroup phase on this issue.

Kim then spoke about the American Rescue Plan funding. It must be spent on SED population. The Department is discussing how this can be used, including workforce initiatives. The amount is \$41 Million, but must be spent in 4 years, and it cannot be long term projects. No decisions have been made yet. Crisis services has been among the ideas being considered.

Kim spoke about the workforce issue stating that this is of utmost concern in the Department. Al Jansen took this issue to Director Hertel, and it may have been taken as high as the Governor's office. Kim stated that the focus has been centered on Direct Care Workers, but the Clinical staff crisis is also being recognized.

Kim stated that the Evidence-Based Practice training calendar will be shared with the group via email from Monique.

Physical management is currently being discussed among the Association and the Department. Kim stated that the Department wants to support parents in times of crisis regarding the use of physical management, possibly developing a crisis tool kit together with input from the Association. Development of this is being discussed as a placeholder for American Rescue Funds. Kim stated that these funds are Block Grant, so the initiatives they can be used on are limited. Startup for Children's Crisis Residential and Children's Foster Care Respite are also on the list for how the Rescue Funds could be used, but it is unknown how to make this work. Group wondered if the study of the impact on workforce could also be added to that list. Kim will talk to Mary Ludtke to see if/how that can be done. Group discussed MIOSHA rules moving forward since the rescension of state-wide mask mandates, as well as how the CMHs are dealing with this. Many gave different examples of what they are doing in their respective area. Kim will send any guidance she can from the Department out to this group.

Justin Tate reported that the Department is hiring several staff. He reported that enrollment of programs is being extended out a year for home-based. Wraparound enrollment is being sent out this week and Crisis Stabilization will be sent out by late summer.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan reported on the budget process. He stated that the Legislature is running out of time (July 1, 2021) to complete a budget proposal. He stated there are not many scheduled session days in June and that the budget will likely be finalized next week. It is unknown if the Legislature will negotiate with the Department or put forth as they see fit and expect vetoes. There will likely be more supplementals coming out soon as well.

Alan then spoke about the redesign proposals. Senator Shirkey's office has proposed a Mental Health Code bill and social welfare reform bill. The Association continues to oppose this proposal. These 2 bills will likely be introduced next week.

Last week, there was a hearing with testimony on the House proposal put forth by Senator Whiteford. Bills will not be passed out of the House before the end of this summer. Representative Whiteford put out a fact sheet in response to some of the Association's concerns, but some of the "facts" in that document are disputed by the Association. Alan does not expect any movement on this until after Labor Day. Alan will send any information along to membership if any activity takes place. Group discussed the testimony that took place regarding "managed" fee for service, and how it is different from fee for service. Alan stated that Rep. Whiteford believes this would increase dollars to the system, which the Association does not agree with. Representative Whiteford does not believe that Miliman offers any value to the current framework of the system. Group continued to discuss whether or not Representative Whiteford truly had correct facts and data to base her proposal on. Many in the group felt she did not.

Child Psychiatric Bed Crisis – Topic was discussed in other sections of the meeting. Waiting for more input from the Department.

Group discussed barriers for placement in Hawthorn in the form of mixed messages from the Department (i.e., "Dr. Mellos said...").

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

No update provided.

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

June Minutes

Minutes were provided in the packet. Gwenda stated that during the May meeting discussions took place on the hospital bed crisis, and the level this crisis has reached. Kim Batsche-McKenzie stated that this topic has been elevated to Director Hertel's office, so the importance is understood within the Department. Kim will continue to seek updates and report them back to this group. Other items discussed were CLS and Respite for SED population, including medical necessity and need. At the June meeting, staff recruitment and retention were discussed. Many around the state are experiencing the same problems with the staffing pool as well as retaining these staff. Private practice seems to be the largest drain on this discipline, along with wages and loan forgiveness. Administrative

burden, paperwork and staff burnout were also discussed. Gwenda stated that COVID was discussed as well as the telehealth services and codes that go along with that. Group discussed pay for staff and the difficulties associated with that as determined by the size of the agency doing the hiring, bonuses and incentives being offered, and how telehealth may be affected moving forward. Group discussed how stimulus dollars could possibly be used for bonuses and incentive pay. Connie pointed out that there are rules and regulations to bonus pay that may prevent federal dollars being used.

Committee Focus Areas for 2021

Child Psychiatric bed Crisis and threats to our Children's system of care efforts/KB lawsuit, Policy, Advocacy, Gaps in Services, Create strategies for workforce capacity issues in our system.

Other

No other business.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 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 2:13pm.