

OPEN MEETING - MINUTES
Waukesha County Health and Human Services
Children and Family Services Advisory Committee (CAFSAC)
October 19, 2023

Present CAFSAC Members: Addiction Resource Council (Stella Koehler), Easterseals Safe Babies Healthy Families (Lindsey Wilson), Elevate, Inc. (Jessica Warden), Family Service (Laura Cherone), Michelle Huebschen, Parent's Place, Inc. (Ann-Marie St John), Public Defender's Office (Maura McMahon (Chair)), School District of Waukesha (Marc Lehnerer), Variety – the Children's Charity of Wisconsin (Dua Vang-Ramirez), Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (Mary Sweeney)

Absent CAFSAC Members: Catholic Charities (Sarah Matson), Darlene Johnson, Prohealth Care, Inc. (Colleen Allen), The Women's Center (Jessica Trauth (Vice Chair))

HHS Board Liaison: Bob Menefee

HHS Staff Liaison: Penny Nevicosi, Ron Pupp

Guests: Eve Altizer, Teresa Cocker, Jessica Hannaman, Juno Pratt

1. Call to Order

Chair McMahon called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion: Vang-Ramirez moved, second by Huebschen, to approve CAFSAC minutes of September 21, 2023. Motion passed without a negative vote.

3. Impact of Trauma and Domestic Violence on Children – Juno Pratt, Shelter Manager, The Women's Center

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The Women's Center provides safety, shelter, and support to all impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and human trafficking. All programs are open to all survivors and their support people.

Children are aware of their surroundings regardless of if they are physically present for an escalated or violent incident. One in fifteen children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year. Approximately 50% of the time when there is an adult victim in the home, there is also a child who has been harmed. Children who grow up exposed to domestic violence and do not receive any intervention services are 15 times more likely to become victims of physical or sexual violence.

Cherone arrived at 8:39 a.m.

The impact of domestic violence on children can include:

- Conflicted emotions, such as guilt, shame, or a struggle with emotional and physical regulation
- May blame the protective parent
- Physical symptoms, such as headache, stomachache, regression in potty training, and language delays

Trauma can mimic behavioral issues so advocates need to ask questions to determine the reason for the behavior. There is no one way that a youth will react or respond to trauma.

Children are resilient but they need a consistent, caring adult invested in their well-being.

Youth services that work to ensure all children have appropriate support includes:

- One-on-one meetings with advocates (interactive imaginary play)
- Support groups designed specifically for youth
- Protective play with youth and adults
- Assist residential clients with accessing school-based and counseling services
- Provide backpacks and school supplies

Youth services focus on supporting children on learning the following concepts:

- Abuse is never their fault
- Making sure they know they are not alone
- It is okay to share your feelings
- How to name their emotions
- Safe ways to show and talk about their feelings
- Physical and emotional safety
- Healthy relationships
- Non-violent conflict resolution

The Women's Center can provide presentations to schools and community groups to educate youth on healthy relationships. There are also support groups available for friends and family of domestic violence victims on how to support them and appropriate language to use.

If you or someone you know can utilize the services through The Women's Center, call the 24-hour hotline, 262-542-3828, or go to: www.twcwaukesha.org.

4. **Committee Business**

a. **Speakers Update**

Attendees discussed suggestions for future speakers and educational presentations. Some of the topics included:

- Survivors of infant and pregnancy loss with a focus on child safety, postpartum, and services available to these individuals
- Mental health services for pre-and peri-natal
- LSS presentation on Birth to Three updates

b. **Coordinated Services Team (CST) Update**

The focus of CST has been on distributing the satisfaction surveys. The goal is to distribute surveys to all youth and families receiving services in CST and CCS. The recently scheduled "wake up call" event was canceled due to lack of registered participants. CST will explore partnering with the School District of Waukesha to offer this in a school setting in the future.

5. **Committee and Organization Updates**

a. **HHS Board Liaison**

The HHS budget will be reviewed and discussed at the joint Finance and HHS Committee meeting today. The Waukesha County Board will vote on the 2024 County budget on Tuesday November 14.

b. **HHS Staff Liaison**

Nevicosi gave updates on the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) awardees which included:

- Orion Family Services parent skill builder program is currently serving 4 families.
- PSG has opened its doors to the outpatient clinic on Grandview Avenue in Waukesha and are currently accepting referrals.
- Wisconsin Family Ties parent mentoring is open for referrals.
- Family Service mental health in-school program in collaboration with the School District of Waukesha is going well.

The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) program has hired a Provider Relationship Coordinator to work with providers to ensure contracts are in place to help avoid waitlists going forward. The CLTS vendor network includes approximately 180 providers and there are over 1,400 youth currently enrolled in the program.

Pupp announced there are approximately 9 youth in shelter care at either Lad Lake or Norris. The secure detention census, previously at around 10-12 youth, is now down to only 1.

c. Aging & Disability Resource Advisory Committee

There were no Aging & Disability Resource Advisory Committee updates.

d. Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

The October meeting focused on preparing for the Critical Needs presentation and updates on the adult Crisis Stabilization Facility at the Mental Health Center, set to open in December 2023.

e. Public Health Advisory Committee

There were no Public Health Advisory Committee updates.

f. Substance Use Advisory Committee (SUAC)

There were no SUAC updates.

g. Children's Community Options Program (CCOP)

At the September CCOP meeting, attendees discussed how to disperse the remaining funds available in 2023. Members will be requesting that Corporation Counsel modify the public meeting rules related to virtual meetings in the future. Renewal applications for members are being submitted for approval at the November meeting.

h. Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)

CCS continues to expand the vendor network with a current count of 25. Approximately 120 youth have been served in 2023 so far and there will be an additional 18 admissions processed in the coming weeks. Members of the youth CCS teams are facilitators of two Positive Youth Initiative (PYI) groups – mindfulness and BIPOC.

6. Agency Updates/Announcements

Variety – the Children's Charity of Wisconsin has partnered with Milwaukee County Zoo to have a height-adjustable changing table installed in a Universal Changing Station located by the main Gift Shop at the zoo.

The Family Service Care Center building has been sold and they are beginning to look for new space to rehome the Care Center.

Easterseals is currently hiring for bilingual staff. As of yesterday, the Waukesha County wait list has been eliminated. The Easterseals Gala will be held on November 2 from 5-9 p.m. For more information, go to: <https://www.easterseals.com/wi-se/get-involved/events/>.

7. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Continue to discuss the Critical Needs presentation at future meetings

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

Motion: Lehnerer moved, second by Vang-Ramirez, to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Hannaman.

Minutes Were Approved: _____

Date: _____



11/16/23