

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2015
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Kristin Agenten, Michelle Anderson, Sara Barron, Margaret Bayer, Eden Christman, Sarah Drzewiecki, Emily Enockson, Pam Groh, Faith Holly-Beal, Barbara Holtz, Missy Kueht-Becker, Sarah Matson, Barbara Medina, Raquel Mehring, John Schiraz, Joe Vitale, Karen Villarreal, Carl Vitense, Cathy Warmington, Mary Wittwer

STAFF PRESENT: Esther Jensen, Laurie Kohler, Jesús Mireles, Kathy Mullooly, Lisa Roberts, Peter Slesar

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Ron Pupp called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

A motion was made by Diane Ripple to approve the minutes of the February 19 meeting, seconded by Raquel Mehring.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale reported that this afternoon the HHS Board meets and begins to hear unmet needs of the AODA Advisory and the Mental Health Advisory Committees. Tomorrow they will meet and hear from the Public Health Advisory and CAFSAC.

On March 26, 2015 there will be a Public Health 140 Review by the State. Outstanding work being done by the Public Health Division.

April 2, 2015 is the Public Hearing and will be held in the Public Health Division, 7:00 p.m. It's an opportunity for your agencies or constituents to come and share their feelings about programs and services that the community needs.

Joe Vitale announced that this is his last CAFSAC meeting. Vitale came on as Chair some ten years ago. He wished the committee well and members thanked him.

Introductions.

SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Lisa Roberts reported the SSAC met February 19, 2015. They discussed proposed changes in the Governor's budget for changing our Family Support Program to a Community Options Program. The details are not yet known. Two people from the Joint Finance Committee will be at Alverno College tomorrow, 10:00 to 5:00, and people are encouraged to go. They worked on finalizing a survey option for participants in Family Support. They discussed the Youth in Transition Program expansion to multiple sites in the community.

REVIEW NEEDS PRESENTATION

Ron Pupp showed highlights of the PowerPoint that will be presented to the HHS Board tomorrow. The PowerPoint is attached. It begins with the CAFSAC mission. This is a presentation to the HHS Board about what we want them to consider and fund in the 2016 budget. A goal is to review the ACES again, as was done last year. This presentation is tied into last year's. A few slides are an update on issues we talked about last year (heroin epidemic). They will provide an overview of the current needs and our recommendations for the future. Three bullet points; community safety, cost effectiveness, and serving families at risk are listed as those are values of Waukesha County and we want to tie our CAFSAC recommendations to the values of the county. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the ACE pyramid are included. Pupp reviewed the calls that come into 2-1-1 Impact, many are calls for basic needs (safety, food, housing, etc.). If we aren't addressing those basic needs, people won't become self-actualized. The pyramid shows negative consequences of people who have had adverse childhood experiences. Last year they addressed the top of the pyramid and intervention at that point. This year they will talk about the bottom of the pyramid and prevention and early intervention. They compared data on the prevalence of ACE's for the State of Wisconsin compared to the United States, as well as Waukesha compared to Wisconsin. They will talk about how ACE's lead to high risk behaviors, including adoption of drug use; heroin being a big concern. Elizabeth Hudson's report regarding emerging issues in Wisconsin is referenced and compared to the similar top needs identified in Waukesha County, per the Partnership for Children's Mental Health in Waukesha County. Laurie Kohler explained that the Partnership for Children's Mental Health brought community agencies to the table to talk about what's being done and what the needs are. These needs were identified; parental supports, expand community based support for children, crisis intervention, and transition age services. A few slides further explain those needs and associated programs. They will highlight recommendations, keeping in mind the values of Waukesha County and referencing data and costs. The culmination of the presentation is the request for a 3% budget increase for Child and Family Services to maintain current providers and an additional \$500,000 for HHS to develop innovative partnerships to eliminate wait lists, fill service gaps and meet unmet needs, including a slide of quotes from providers regarding what they would do with an additional 3% in funding.

CAFSAC members were invited to attend and support at the presentation to the HHS Board at 2:30 p.m. in Room 271, on Friday, March 20.

Vitale suggested promoting the work done on collaboration and coordination of services among CAFSAC providers, as well as prevention and early intervention. Emphasize the fund raising efforts that are required to stay afloat. The Board and the County Executive have always been supportive. The Board meets on April 23, 2015 with perhaps the new county executive and/or Dan Vrakas. Evidence based reporting should also be emphasized. Focus on cost savings of avoiding deep end services through early intervention and prevention.

AGREE TO SUCCEED, MEDIATION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Cathy Warmington was introduced. She works at WCS and they have a program called Helping Kids Succeed. It is a truancy/tardiness program. It began as preventative, with youth who are

beginning to miss school. They work with the children and families to promote the habit of coming to school. They work with all ages, from kindergarten to age 18. The 18 year olds are usually students who are not going to be graduating and the school wants them to step in and attempt to help the student graduate somehow, by getting into an alternative school or whatever works for them. 23% of the families are low income and 41% are middle income. Most youth they work with are considered at risk. Many have special education needs, have difficulty with organizational skills or learning, or have behavioral or motivational difficulties. It is all encompassing as they work with not only the child, but also with the family. In 2014 they worked with 248 parents and 152 students. United Way is a major funder. United Way has mapped out a ten year plan with them. The program is growing rapidly.

This program has a different approach than the school or a social worker. They fill a gap. They work closely with the student, family, and school to find out why the child isn't getting to school. When they find that out, they work on that aspect. Some families have truancy petitions filed and they then work with the social workers. All types of programs in the community are utilized. For instance, if a student has a reading problem, they work with non-profits dealing with that, i.e. Literacy Counsel. Some students have trouble connecting with friends and maybe what they need is to go out and work with animals. So they have connections at the Humane Society where they can volunteer. They use Parent's Place a lot for their programming. One thing some parents have difficulty with is understanding how to deal with their children, so they offer them Parent's Place classes. This is all volunteer. Most parents are very happy to have this resource available. When parents are ending their program, they have said they never knew Waukesha County had so many services. The parents are made aware of Impact 2-1-1 and can find resources and services on their own and that's a very positive thing.

One thing they do with older youth transitioning and graduating from high school is take them on college visits. If the youth is interested in the armed forces, they will meet a recruiter with them. They offer hope for the future. They work with middle school children having a hard time transitioning to high school.

There are parents who go to work before the child goes to school, so they work on giving the child wake up calls in the morning to get ready for school. They discuss with the kids how to prepare for school the night before and make to-do lists.

They work with parents six to eight months and by then things are usually resolving.

School Avoidance is a term that Children's Hospital developed and they have done a study on it. It is when students don't go to school because they feel sick. They may or may not really be sick, or they don't feel well due to anxiety. Children's Hospital interviews the student and/or family, analyzes the situation, and decides on an action plan. It's usually covered by insurance. The Hospital writes a report that the school and parents receive. It advises the parents not to keep the student at home unless, and lists reasons. The Hospital can prescribe medications in some situations or can tell the school what medicine they should have on hand. The schools have been great helping out with the plans.

Part of the reason some parents have trouble with schools is that the schools have laws to follow, including letters sent home stating they are not getting their child to school. The letters sound a bit threatening to parents and they feel defensive. What they really need to do is become a partner and work with the school. One of the program's outcomes is to make sure parents have an understanding of how they can be partners with the school. The program was 86% successful in 2014 with the 248 parents. They were 86% successful in improving attendance with the 152 children. They found that as attendance improves, grades improve. When attendance and grades improve, children want to go to school because they feel good about themselves.

What is the criteria for referral? Usually schools send them referrals. They can take referrals from any provider, and they receive many from DHS. Family may self refer. Each school district is a little different and they have revised their program for them. They have never turned anyone down. If they have a student that has special needs they are not trained to deal with, they find help.

Cathy Warmington shared brochures with general information on how the program works, another with success stories, and referral sheets.

Is there a sense of how many other agencies are involved with the families when you begin? Warmington answered most families aren't working with anybody else other than the school. There was discussion on some struggles families deal with; financial, life, too busy, hesitant to work with agencies for a variety of reasons.

Are there other types of mediation they do? Yes, she could come back and talk about that another time. Any type of mediation you could think of, they do.

The amount of time spent with each family depends on the family's needs.

How many active cases do they work with in the course of an average week? Warmington said the last time she asked was in the Fall and there were 60 active families. There is likely more now. They have been working on organizing and expanding.

What is the program's capacity? There is a part time person starting and she hopes to have funding to add more staff in the future.

Warmington explained that they meet the student at the school and ask the parents to come to their office to meet. The mediations are at the school. They used to go meet parents at the home; this has helped them become more organized to have parents come to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pupp reminded that CAFSAC does not meet in April due to the Public Hearing scheduled on April 2. The subject of the May meeting is to discuss summer recreational opportunities available for youth and families. As of now, they have speakers from Donna Lexa Art Center and Waukesha Library. Email Ron Pupp with any other ideas. Bring flyers or pamphlets to the meeting to distribute. Members indicated that sign up deadlines for summer camps is usually

March, so next year we should address those types of activities earlier in the year. Agencies can always email Pupp information on any time sensitive activities to share with CAFSAC members. The May meeting there will still be a focus on other drop in type summer family activities.

Barb Holtz, Parents Place, is now working part time for Lutheran Social Services and they are starting a new program called FAST for Infants and Toddlers. It's a generational program for families with young moms, age 25 or younger, who have infants or toddlers. They also take pre-natal families. It's an eight week program that begins April 14 through June 2, every Tuesday, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. It's an educational program that brings different generations together. There obviously has to be a mom and a child, and then there needs to be a generation above mom; i.e. her mom, her dad, a supportive aunt. If there's a dad involved, he would be part of the program. The tag line of the program is that everyone is there 'for the sake of the baby' and to support the mom. There will be family activities, inter-generational discussion, infant massage, dinner, a bit of time for pampering of the moms. FAST has been around for a long time and stands for Family and Schools Together. The FAST program for infants and toddlers has existed in Wisconsin for about ten years. It's new in the county and they are just starting the recruiting. Holtz will send the brochure to members. They have a volunteer grandma mentor, dad mentor, and mom mentor, plus we have Public Health and LSS. They are going to go out and meet with each of the families briefly to explain the program.

Missy Kueht-Becker said there is still time to sign up for the Bravado, fundraiser for community services of Birth to Three. It's May 13 and is a run/walk, bike, and paddle.

Emily Enockson, Zachariah's Acres has a free, fun family event May 9, which is Mother's Day weekend, so Mom's will get some pampering, there's fishing, kite flying, planting future Christmas trees, and more. Registration is on line or email Emily.

Esther Jensen shared that Public Health has developed, along with Maternal Child Health, a resource directory for Waukesha County. This is not completely comprehensive, they did not want it to be a yellow pages. They wanted it to be easily accessible for families, including the basic needs. It gives a brief overview of the agency with phone number. It includes healthy lifestyle pre-pregnancy, then pre-natal, child and parents services, adolescents, teens, young adults, adults, seniors, and mental health and disabilities. There's something included from the CDC about tracking milestones in your children; developmental, social, mental. This will also be available on the website soon.

Roberts reported that the Waukesha County Trauma Informed Care Partnership is organizing a training June 1 with Dr. Margaret Blaustein. She is a nationally know presenter and developer of trauma intervention called ARC which is a regulation and competency model and can give some hands-on tools working with children who have experienced trauma across different environments. It can be school-based, residential facilities, outpatient therapy, day treatment, etc. It's building resistance after childhood trauma. You can register on line on Eventbrite.com. Joe Vitale indicated that the Board members could benefit from a training like this.

There is another trauma informed care program on April 8, 1:00 to 3:00 at the National Center for Learning Excellence. It's Phillip Chard, Psychologist and writer for the Journal Sentinel. It's talking about the IT world, the impact of social media and electronics on our children.

Margaret Bayer announced a free parent education night at Addiction Resource Council the last Thursday of each month, 5:30 to 8:00. The target are parents whose children are beginning to experiment with drugs.

Laurie Kohler reported they are in year one of their collaborative youth crisis services grant that will expire June 30. They have done the first youth based CIT training in the state to help law enforcement officers recognize and work with youth and families in a mental health crisis. When they're looking at improving crisis service in the community, it's not just about a county having 24-7 crisis services. It's also about getting education to lay people in the community, crisis diversion, what we can do to centralize information so it's accessible. Two things are coming up. NAMI Waukesha is partnering with them to provide two day training on April 21 and 22. The focus is to engage people who work with youth on a regular basis to help understand brain development and trauma, learn some tangible skills like supportive listening and de-escalation. There will be a QPR (question, persuade, refer) portion. Kohler also shared that Partnerships for Children's Mental Health, the CST Coordinating Committee and the larger committee will be meeting on April 8. The speaker changed. They are bringing in the Peer Specialists in Waukesha County. Peer specialists have been active in the world of adult recovery, but they want to plant a seed to get some younger peer specialists working with youth.

Diane Ripple announced the Women's Center has a new group starting in a couple of weeks for teen girls, survivors of sexual violence/abuse. She will email the flyer.

Barb Holtz stated the Child Protective Services education series is repeating. At least the first two sessions will be one in April and one in October. The save the date information has gone out.

Mireles announced the Family Services Wine Tasting fundraiser is April 23. Go to familyservices.org to register under the events tab.

Many thanks and well wishes to Joe Vitale. This is his last meeting as CAFSAC chair.

The meeting was adjourned with no formal motion.

5-21-15

Approved