

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MAY 21, 2015  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Michelle Anderson, Sara Barron, Laura Cherone, Eden Christman, Sarah Drzewiecki, Emily Enockson, Betsy Foss-Campbell, Missy Kueht-Becker, Maura McMahon, Barbara Medina, Raquel Mehring, Joe Muchka, Ron Pupp, Glynis Underwood, Carl Vitense, Mary Wittwer

**STAFF PRESENT:** Laurie Kohler, Jesús Mireles, Kathy Mullooly, Lisa Roberts

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2015**

Ron Pupp called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

A motion was made by Raquel Mehring, seconded by Sarah Drzewiecki to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting.

Bill Zaborowski has not officially accepted the nomination to be our CAFSAC liaison. He is not present at this meeting and there is no Board Liaison report.

**CST (COORDINATED SERVICES TEAM) INITIATIVE**

Laurie Kohler gave an update. Over the last couple of years the State has pushed CST out as a state-wide model to serve youth with complex care needs who are high risk for placement. Since Waukesha County has had a wraparound service model called, The Integrated Service Project (ISP) for children with Severe Emotional Disturbances (SED) and their families for many years, we have had to update our program to reflect the Statutory Mandates of the CST Initiative. The CST promotes a coordinated system of care by working as a team with families and their supports. The CST initiative is intended for youth with two systems of involvement. These systems include: special education, mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare, developmental disabilities. It is not as much a program as it is a process. It's a process of bringing everyone to the table to coordinate care and helps for families to communicate their goals and priorities in working together. The CST continues to be run through the Waukesha County Health and Human Services Outpatient Clinic. Traditionally they have served youth who meet the SED (Severe Emotional Disturbance) criteria with the intention of reducing inpatient hospitalizations and maintaining at risk children in the communities. However, the CST process could be used more broadly to support children involved in two systems of care to work on their goals for continued support in the community.

Last year Waukesha County served 16 clients through the CST. State-wide they report in about 500 family teams. Waukesha is the third largest county, but has one of the smaller projects. Our project is small mostly because our staff totals three clinicians providing CST on a part time basis. Waukesha receives grant funding from DHS –DMSAS annually to provide some funding for the CST. Our goal is not to be the largest in the state, but rather to meet the needs of the

families who want and need the CST to have it available. We have not been getting a lot of referrals this year. The CST Coordinator will do more outreach and provide educational handouts to community partners.

Another area of compliance with CST regulations is that the State mandates a the development of a CST coordinating committee which provides an opportunity to brings parents and providers to the table to identify unmet community needs and get consumer feedback about the process and to build a more inclusive system of care. Therefore the Partnership for Children's Mental Health Committee has been re-established. The Partnership meets monthly, the second Wednesday of the month from 4:00 to 5:30. They invite speakers each month. The last speaker was from Wisconsin Family Ties and talked about the role of Parent Peer Specialists. Parent Peer Specialist is someone with lived experiences as the parents of a child with mental health issues who can provide support. The committee is beginning to have some active work groups with a push to help catalog and identify the resources in Waukesha County specifically supporting youth with mental health issues. The committee is also currently serving as a coordinating committee for a grant that the Clinic has, which is the Collaborative Youth Services Grant. The intention of that grant is to provide and extend the service array of crisis services for reaching youth at risk for suicide, crisis, or hospitalization. Kohler reported this grant recently funded a two-day free youth -focused mental health training for community partners, called Crisis Intervention Partners, which was held on April 21 and 22, 36 people attended, and received information based on a modified 40 hour, crisis intervention Training being done for local law enforcement..

### **SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Lisa Roberts said the Special Services Advisory Committee meets today and there is no report at this time.

### **SUMMER RECREATION**

Introductions were made for the guest speaker.

Betsy Foss-Campbell reported that Donna Lexa Art Center provides artistic opportunities to adults and teens with special needs, meaning people with cognitive or physical disabilities, or mental health conditions. They also serve older adults regardless of ability. They have three studio locations and are based in Waukesha, with studios also in West Milwaukee and West Bend. There are various outreach places in Waukesha and Milwaukee County which has grown from having five locations to twelve. Those are in locations where people with special needs live or receive other services, for example there is a class at TLS (Transitional Living Services) in West Allis.

Foss-Campbell talked about how Donna Lexa makes a difference in the lives of their participants. Her brother-in-law has Down Syndrome and has been a participant in the Art Center since it started thirty years ago. His picture is included in their brochure. His artistic talent was discovered when he graduated from high school. His story exemplifies how for some of the people they serve, art becomes part of their identity. He states that without Donna Lexa he

wouldn't be an artist. It's very much part of his identity and it gives him self esteem. It's also a way for participants to express themselves with guidance from instructors.

Foss-Campbell shared some other benefits of art and examples of people they serve. Tiffany also has Down syndrome. It gives her a sense of self esteem and community by coming and engaging in art. They hear from participants that coming to classes once a week creates a community with fellow artists where they can feel like they're a leader sometimes. There is a picture in the brochure of Lorraine who has cerebral palsy and she gives comments that she loves trying new things in class. Continued learning is important; it stimulates the brain and can help the memory as well. Lorraine also comments that art is very therapeutic for her. There have been studies on art therapy and the benefits of art therapy. Lorraine comments that it cheers her up and is the only place she has this much fun. A young woman named Kayla who on her first day of college was involved in a car accident, suffered a traumatic brain injury. She was interested in interior design and fashion design. She comments that coming to Donna Lexa 'lets me be me'. This allowed her to continue to have a creative aspect. She uses a communication device. Art allows her to communicate in a visual way as well.

Participants' artwork is displayed in a variety of community locations; at the Delafield Art Center, the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center education wing, etc. This gives the participants a sense of accomplishment and helps provide integration into the community that they are contributing to the community by displaying their art.

The Donna Lexa Memorial Art Fair is August 15, 9:00 to 4:00 in Wales, hosted by Jerusalem Presbyterian Church. They are also participating in a Sports and Recreation Expo on July 25, 9:00 to 2:00 at Nathan Hale High School.

Donna Lexa has quality staff. The program manager is a registered art therapist and has been an art therapist for sixteen years. They have seven part time instructors all who have Master's or related degrees in either art therapy, art education, or fine art. The program managers meets with each student before deciding what class they want to take. She is able to assess the individual's needs and makes recommendations. The class sizes are kept small in order to provide individualized instructions. There are aides in every class; either they are other students or volunteers to provide assistance and guidance. Instruction on a variety of visual art forms; painting, weaving, and mixed media. They emphasis student choice. Some students need more structure, so the instructors will bring a project to the class and encourage students to individualize it. Most classes are run like an open studio with people working on different projects. Most classes are on-going. There are some limited term classes. They just finished a class done in collaboration with the Waukesha Community Art Project. They serve middle school students. They worked with them and the Youth and Family Project for middle school students with and without disabilities. They are also providing through a grant a class for women with disabilities focusing on topics of self esteem. They are introducing some limited term classes that address particular issues.

Foss-Campbell talked about working together as social service providers. They not only want to serve their own mission, but want to give their participants information on available resources in the community. The website is [www.DonnaLexa.org](http://www.DonnaLexa.org) which includes the class schedule.

There is a \$17.00 charge per class. Scholarships are available up to a third off. Most participants attend once a week, but some can only afford once or twice per month. All of the materials are provided. Middle school is the youngest age, most are high school students.

## **OTHER SUMMER RECREATION**

Sara Barron, Broadscope, previously emailed a list of summer camps in the area. Broadscope does not provide camp services, but they have compiled a list of places where children and adults with special needs can go for summertime activities. The list is updated annually. Most people have signed up for camps by February or March.

Emily Enockson, Zachariah's Acres, invited anyone who hasn't been out recently to come and tour. They are located in Oconomowoc on 40 beautiful acres. The purpose is to make nature accessible to children with special needs and their families. There are several free events offered this summer, including one that is a camping theme. They have a fully stocked fishing pond, hay wagon rides, wheelchair accessible garden beds, and all sorts of fun to be enjoyed by the family. She shared a flyer with some upcoming events. Preregister is required. The website is [www.zachariahsacres.org](http://www.zachariahsacres.org)

Laura Cherone talked about Royal Family Kids Camp, a camp primarily for children in foster care or who have experienced significant family disruption. It is free. If you have candidates for that, you can email Laura at [lcherone@fsw.org](mailto:lcherone@fsw.org) and she will bring brochures for the next meeting.

Eden Christman, Easter Seals, shared camp brochures. Easter Seals also has Camp Yellow Ribbon which is for children who have had parents involved in the military, been deployed or deployed at this time. Christman shared Sib Shoppe registration forms, which is an ongoing program and they are starting some summer classes. There is a program for young adults and adolescents transitioning into adulthood, ages 18 to 25, called the Project SEARCH Program in Partnership with Children's Hospital. Easter Seals has an autism program in the summer; a six week program for social and career building skills on site at Children's Hospital. Lastly, there is a walk on June 24 at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Sara Baron announced the 25 years of the ADA will be celebrated this year with Broadscope and a storytelling group called ExFabula in July at the Skylight Theater. \$5 tickets can be purchased on line. The theme is going to be Easy Access. There will be food available and it will be accessible.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This is Jesús Mireles' last CAFSAC meeting as he is retiring on June 2. Mireles announced that Kathy Mullooly replaces him as manager of the HHS Intake and Shared Services Division. She has been in the department for ten years and a supervisor for seven. This advisory committee is valued by the county executive and the county board. It is a great opportunity to communicate with one another openly and honestly, and to share the community needs with our policy makers.

There are on-going challenges. The important thing is that the CAFSAC agencies are doing the front line work. They see the families, they see the impact of not having access to services, or children and families in need of support. It's our job to share what we're hearing from our constituents with our policy makers. Mireles talked about the importance of early intervention and prevention of child abuse and out of home care placements. Everyone is doing great work, but need to share and continue to update program information and resources with staff and the community. Mireles is blessed and pleased about having been a member of the Child and Family Advisory Committee.

Lisa Roberts announced that Dr. Blaustein, a nationally known speaker, is coming to speak on Building Resilience After Childhood Trauma at the Expo Center on June 1, 8:30 to 4:00.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Missy Kueht-Becker motioned to adjourn, seconded by Raquel Mehring at 9:37 a.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2015, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., at Waukesha County Health and Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Room 271, Waukesha.

6-18-15

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Approved

