

SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 19, 2015

Waukesha County DHHS – Board Room

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Members Present: Sara Barron, Jennifer Bertram (via phone), Emily Enockson, Patrick Jauquet, Missy Kueht-Becker, Ann Shurte, and Julie Turkoske

Members Absent: Kristin Brost, Jane DeGeorge, Deb DeMaster, Amy Elfner, Kathy Evans, Dennis Farrell, Lisa Fusco, Elsa Gonzales, Mary Ann Jensen, Tina Kasper, Bonnie Siegel, Tracey Stanislawski, and Cheri Sylla,

DHHS Liaisons Present:

Diane Bazylewicz, Dan Borchardt, Lauren Franson, Katie Miller, Lisa Roberts, Ryan Smith, Amanda Trieloff, Casey Vullings, and Leslie Zersen

Guests Present:

Wendy Heyn

Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

Members introduced themselves and their roles (parent or professional).

Agenda Item #2 – Solicitation of agenda items/Approval of Minutes from 11/20/14

Sara Barron moved to approve the minutes with the stated changes from the last meeting; seconded by Julie Turkoske and approved.

Additional Agenda Item – Children’s Long Term Support Waivers

Julie Turkoske

Julie Turkoske discussed the statewide children’s long term support waiver budget has just been rolled out. The proposed changes include the “Children’s Long Term Support Waiver” being renamed to “Children’s Waivers.” The council met to develop wording changes for the statute to be more family-focused and less senior-focused. It was also proposed for IRIS and Adult COP to be eliminated. The Birth to 3 Waiver is still being held up at a federal level.

The State Children’s Long Term Redesign Support Council is recruiting for parents who can make a long-term commitment. The Council meets quarterly in Madison for an entire day, and provides parent members with a stipend for travel. The application can be found on the Children’s Long Term Redesign Support website.

Agenda Item #3 – Education Segment

Transitional Planning Presentation – Diane Bazylewicz, Dan Borchardt, Katie Miller

Diane Bazylewicz provided an overview about youth in transition. While Waukesha County is working with the youth, we need to look at what can be done at public schools and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to identify gaps. To deal with the identified gaps, Waukesha County increased funding, added 2 full-time employees who review 16-18 year olds on the waitlist, and created procedures and variances which moved these children onto the list, to support them to be better prepared to transition. Waukesha County has identified 15 families with children aged 16 at this point. Waukesha County has waiver funding, and was granted a special variance procedure to have them served right away and some families took advantage of the variance. The goal of the family and youth is for independence and vocational training. Those that did not want either of those items were offered support but not put on the waiver. If parents are looking to send the children to camp, they would need to utilize the supports offered by the Family Support Program.

When Waukesha County identified gaps, it was found that we had 79 youth on waiver who are transitional and eligible for enhanced services. Currently, Lad Lake is the only provider we are working with. Lad Lake is approved through the state and targeted for youth with mental health issues. The waiver funding is used to pay for a vocational program. The program has been running for 2 years, only during the summer. Lad Lake provides transportation for their participants. At this time, there are only 8 slots available, but we are hoping we can add more.

Waukesha County was concerned that there were other children that needed opportunities and felt the need to provide year-round options. The goal would be to have 3 or 4 providers to offer choices to families. Waukesha County has to ensure we do not use waiver funding to cover services that should be covered elsewhere. Waukesha County is looking for the providers to build off of soft skills such as following schedules and getting ready in the morning for school or work.

Diane reached out to Opportunities, Inc. in Fort Atkinson. They already work year-round with 5 public schools in Waukesha County, and offer services regarding daily living skills, mentoring specific to community employment, and working with the DVR and schools. Waukesha County looks at IEP and the DVR plan, and then determines the gaps that the waiver can cover.

Easter Seals currently has an adult program, but they do not offer a program for youth. They are interested in developing one, and Waukesha County is still in negotiations with them for vocational services.

Genesee Lake School, formerly Oconomowoc Developmental Training Center (ODTC), is a brand new service looking at vocational goals. At this time, there are limited services offered that Waukesha County is reviewing to make sure it complies with waiver guidelines under the CLTS waiver.

Diane is in the process of working with the New Berlin School District and the Transition Improvement Grant (TIG). This grant helps provide better transition services to New Berlin students.

Dan and Katie Miller discussed the Promise Grant. One of the issues that Waukesha County runs into with the Promise Grant is that it is only for children between the ages of 14 and 16 that are SSI recipients. It is an educational grant and study, and therefore has 2 groups of participants for actual and “placebo”

treatment. The study receives state level funding, and participation can be for up to 5 years. Waukesha County will find it difficult to take advantage of the grant to its fullest extent because of our clientele and the limitations of the grant. Schools should refer acceptable clients to CESA to receive information if they have not already received anything.

Diane and Katie discussed DVR's involvement with assisting our clients. Waukesha County is encouraging parents, who have children covered by the waiver, to invite the social workers and DVR to the IEP meetings to collaborate. This will also allow us to see where the gaps are.

Under new federal mandates, the DVR is now able to be involved earlier in the child's life, at age 14, versus age 16 as it has been. They now take referrals online, and parents should contact their school's guidance counselor for more information.

Agenda Item #4 – Survey Update/Discussion

Casey Vullings

Casey Vullings provided an update on the Family Support Survey, which was handed out at the previous meeting. This is a feedback system for families who completed or graduated from services, or when recertifying the case. It was noted at the last meeting that the survey should be kept short, no more than 2 pages. We will need to determine who the surveys will be addressed to, and how the surveys will be analyzed once they are returned.

Discussion was held about options of making the survey available.

- Missy Kueht-Becker mentioned that Survey Monkey would be a good option to try and save some of the behind-the-scenes legwork since it would automatically analyze the information. Jennifer Bertram mentioned that there may be less of a chance that the survey would be disposed of by the parents.
- Casey offered that another option would be to put it on the Waukesha County internet page. This would keep all information that the parent provides, within Waukesha County. In order to have this be an option, a discussion needs to occur with the Department of Administration (DOA) IT Department, and the survey would need to be created electronically.
- Jennifer said she would be willing to help send out the survey with a parent cover letter from a parent starting out with a phrase such as “As a parent...” and include that the writer has been through the process and that it will help to sustain the program.
- An option that was effective for Birth-to-Three was during at-home visits. The worker would give the survey to the parent to fill out while the worker was there tending to other business. The worker would also provide an envelope that could be sealed by the parent and handed right over to the worker.
- Another communication option that was suggested was to provide to parents either during the home visit.
- An additional option is to send to the survey prior to the home visit so that the parent can fill it out and have it available when the worker arrives.

If the survey is offered to be filled out online, we will need to ensure that the person does not have to fill out an answer in order to move on.

Changes and concerns in regards to the survey include:

- Change to first or third person throughout – not both.
- Should the questions be kept as yes or no, or can there be a numeric scale? Narrative would be appreciated either way to allow the parent to further explain their answer.
- Change the word “Explain” to “Comments.”
- Make available in Spanish as well.
- Start with a written version as we transition to an electronic version.

Julie Turkoske brought up about sending the survey out during the program so that people can mention improvements. Other ideas mentioned included at re-certification time, every 6 months, and whenever the client exits or closes out of a program.

Birth-to-Three has had a hard time getting responses back for their own surveys, so they are offering incentives for completed electronic surveys. This could be another option for us to receive more feedback.

Agenda Item #5 – Family Support Plan Update

Casey Vullings

Casey Vullings announced that the annual plan is due to the Department of Human Services (DHS) on March 16th, but it is not quite done yet, however will be reviewed at the May 21st meeting. In 2014, 331 families were supported. Of the 331, 202 turned in questionnaires. Of the 202, we served 132 families in some capacity. In addition to the 132 families, we also received special state funding for larger home modification-type projects and were able to serve 7 families with that funding, for a total of 139 families served. In 2013, we served 131 families.

Agenda Item #6 – Birth-to-Three Update

Missy Kueht-Becker

Missy Kueht-Becker announced that the Birth-to-Three referrals are increasing and we are at full capacity.

Waukesha County Birth-to-Three has a link on Facebook. It has started to link a lot of the families together, provides good educational information, and gives parenting tips of the day. Missy is not sure if it is a group or a page, but will look into it for moderator-purposes. Missy will work with the staff running the page and have a link to SSAC information, and that SSAC is looking for parents to make a long-term commitment to the group.

The Bravado Challenge, which is a run/bike/paddle event, will be held on May 16th. It is coordinated by the MBM Sports Group and is a fundraiser for Waukesha County’s Birth-to-Three. The challenge is a nearly 4-mile run/walk through Lapham Peak, 8-mile bike route, and canoe/paddle down the river (participant would have to supply their own canoe or rent a single or double if they register in time).

Agenda Item #7 – Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Compass
- A future topic is having Threshold to Wisconsin come in
- A future topic is NAMI QPR

Agenda Item #8 – Miscellaneous

Emily Enockson stated that Terry Bartowitz is no longer on the SSAC committee, nor is he the CAFSAC liaison. Emily will now replace Terry as the CAFSAC liaison.

Lisa Roberts talked about the NAMI Basics Education Program. They discussed the fundamentals such as taking care of yourself, children, and your family. It is a 6-week course that starts on April 18th. It is a free program that lasts 3 hours. A copy of the flyer can be found at:

http://www2.nami.org/MSTemplate.cfm?Site=NAMI_Waukesha

Lisa discussed NAMI Question Persuade Refer (QPR), which is normally an hour-and-a-half presentation. This is about suicide prevention and how people can intervene. It goes into what suicide looks like, what you can say to the person, and how you can refer someone to get help. It is presented by NAMI Waukesha. It was suggested that we can bring the speaker in to do an overview so that members will be aware of the signs, whether they are in a parent or a child.

Missy Kueht-Becker motioned to adjourn, seconded by Sara Barron. Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

The next meeting is May 21, 2015 from 12:00 – 1:30 PM.

Schedule of 2015 Meetings

- September 17, 2015
- November 19, 2015