

## **SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**September 17, 2015**  
**Waukesha County DHHS – Room 114**  
**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Sara Barron, Kim Coronado, Jane DeGeorge, Patrick Jauquet, and Jennifer Siderits

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Bertram, Kristin Brost, Deb DeMaster, Amy Elfner, Emily Enockson, Kathy Evans, Dennis Farrell, Lisa Fusco, Elsa Gonzales, Mary Ann Jansen, Tina Kasper, Missy Kueht-Becker, Ann Shurte, Bonnie Siegel, Tracey Stanislawski, and Cheri Sylla

**DHHS Liasons Present:** Diane Bazylewicz, Ryan Smith, and Casey Vullings

**Guests Present:** Eden Christman, Wendy Heyn, Murrent Payton, and Linda Wetzel

### **Agenda Item #1: Introductions**

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

### **Agenda Item #2: Solicitation of Agenda Items/Approval of Minutes from 5/21/15**

Sara Barron moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ryan Smith and approved.

### **Agenda Item #3: Survey – Final Copy Review and Implementation**

#### **Casey Vullings**

Casey Vullings reported that we had a survey and passed it out. Diane Bazylewicz and Casey believe it is a final copy. Diane reported that the survey will be sent out by November to about 400 families, and that they are hoping to have results within a month. The goal is to take the survey to determine employee training and how do we get more resource information out.

Patrick Jauquet asked if there was a different survey for the waiting list clients that have a change in conditions that would take them off of the list. Diane said that there are letters that go out twice a year to families notifying them what number they are and to notify us of changes, but that this survey does not go to wait list members.

Diane stated that a team member has developed a brochure listing the resources for families that are on the wait list. These will begin going out with the October letters. Patrick mentioned also sending a post card that could go on the refrigerator.

The Family Support Survey will go out soon electronically and via paper, according to Diane.

### **Agenda Item #4: Birth to 3 Update**

#### **Linda Wetzel**

Linda Wetzel works with Lutheran Social Services (LSS), and she came to give an overview on the Birth to 3 program, one of four programs that LSS handles.

Other programs handled by LSS are Developmental Screening and Support, as well as Trauma Informed Care for Children at Risk for Children in Out-of-Home Care. Another program is Birth to 3.

Developmental Monitoring is trying to get children ready for school, at what is the appropriate level of development. Most children do not have the fine motor skills that they had 20-30 years ago, due to technology. About 2 years ago, there was a screening on all 4 year olds coming in. Some of the concerns that are called in include crawling/walking and talking. As the child gets older, it would be social skills. This program is trying to help parents understand what is typical monitoring. There are also sheets available showing what children should do at a certain age, and LSS is in the midst of updating their internet page.

Screening is the next step to compare the child to what is typically expected at that age. There is an Ages and Stages questionnaire that parents can print out and go through with their children. The questionnaire helps determine if there is a need for the help and then having conversations with the parent if there are things they can do differently.

LSS offers Waukesha County resources. They can offer an alternative activity if there are issues for the child. LSS also partners with the YMCA, offering a yoga class that children with autism do very well in. Other programs offered include Infant Massage, Music and Movement, Fast for Infants and Toddlers, and Let's Play, which is a community drop-in where they go in the community and parents can stop in.

When parents want to see if they are eligible for the program, they can be referred to the Birth to 3. 25% delay or more or a diagnosed condition such as Downs Syndrome or a hearing impairment... Serve 550 families in the program with approximately 225 families actively enrolled.

Patrick asked if Curative Rehab has changed over the years. Linda stated that every county has the ability to run their Birth to 3 as they feel fit. Waukesha contracts with LSS, while Milwaukee contracts with multiple providers, and some counties just handle everything on their own. Waukesha County is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the state, following Milwaukee and Dane Counties.

LSS determines eligibility, builds the IFSP. They follow an evidence-based model.

LSS does all services in the home and community. They look at parent capacity and what the parent wants to see happen, and use coaching as an adult learning style. Within the program, they will provide all transition services as well.

Casey asked if the client stays with LSS after the age of 3. Linda responded that everything has to be done by the time the child is 3 years old. If they are in Birth to 3, they are required to move into Aged Development. There can be a gap in services if the child has a summer birthday.

In its third year, Trauma Informed Care is for preschool at-risk children. This program was developed for children who did not meet other areas, but there were findings of abuse or neglect. It determines the baseline and where they need to go.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Waisman Center/CLTS Council**

##### **Liz Hecht**

Children's Council, reporting to Kitty Rose, was established in 2000 and is comprised of families and county workers to vision how to redo the Long-Term Waiver. In 2005, they became "official." They advise the department on everything regarding the Family Support Program, Children's Waiver, Medicaid, and other long-term services.

The Council currently has openings for county and family representatives. They are looking for family representatives that can provide the perspective of those on the waiting list and with younger children.

The Children's Council meets 4 times a year, and provides recommendations on a wide range of topics.

There is new funding to continue to address the waiting lists, which is for about 2300 children across the state. The departments were directed to not ask for additional funding. There was a 3% annual increase in the program. It is school-based reimbursement. The budget says that any amount of reimbursement over a certain amount would go to address the waiting list, however the council does not know what the limit is. 1.8 Million dollars, a mixture of state general purpose revenue and Medicaid reimbursement, will address the waiting list needs.

Medicaid Prior Authorization was moved out of Medicaid and into the Fraud division. This seemed to result an increase in denials, so it was moved back out of the Fraud division.

In the budget, the legislature passed and created the Children Community Options Program (COP) after getting rid of the Family Support Program. This took out the support provided to families, and was done to increase financial flexibility for counties. It is Liz's understanding that it was the intent of the department to create a program still focused on the family. The Children's COP will be rolled out in the fall and continue to be operating in January, 2016.

Kim Coronado is concerned that the name will not include "Family Support" or "Family" so that it can be easier found by families. She was also concerned about the prior authorization method and how there were delays in her children being able to get medications when nothing had changed.

Liz believes that a survey regarding the Medicaid Prior Authorizations may need to happen to help support as they go back to the state. If anyone is interested in reviewing it, please get in touch with her.

There is a change in service for children with autism. Wisconsin provided Behavioral Treatment services through the Medicaid Forward card. In 2005, it was decided it could not be provided through the card. It then went to Waivers and has stayed that way still today. Last year, the services were told to be provided through the card and not through the waiver. All states are expected to provide Medicaid services for children whether they have the card or not. Medicaid-eligible but not Waiver-eligible children can now receive services.

The roll out date is January 1, however it does not mean that there will be the providers to handle the additional work.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Family Support Plan Approval/Update**

##### **Casey Vullings**

Casey stated that the Family Support Plan was due in March, but it was pushed to the end of June. There are not many changes of families reviewed from last year, and the program continues the same.

Kim is trying to bridge a gap with crisis. She is trying to seek some service out vs. calling the police. Could we brainstorm on ideas?

Birth to 3 is the only entitled program.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Someone talk about the CCS program?
- Casey is verifying who wants to stay on the membership list.

Sara Barron motioned to adjourn, seconded by Diane Bazylewicz. Meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM.

The next meeting is November 19, 2015 from 12:00 – 1:30 PM.