

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKGROUP

August 4, 2016

Iowa Capitol Building, Ronald Reagan Room

1007 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa

MEETING NOTES

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gail Barber
Sarah Brown
Wayne Clinton
Erin Drinnin
Jerry Foxhoven
Anne Gruenewald
Representative David Heaton
Scott Hobart
Marcus Johnson-Miller
Bob Lincoln
Senator Liz Mathis

Vickie Miene
Charles Palmer
Wendy Rickman
Kim Scorza
Amy Shriver
Rick Shults
Renee Speh
Representative Art Staed
David Tilly
Michele Tilotta
Shanell Wagler

WORKGROUP MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lynn Bopes
Susan Christensen
Phyllis Hansell
Krista Moellers

Tammy Nyden
Kristina Richey
Steve Seid

Jerry Foxhoven thanked the members of the workgroup for returning, welcomed the workgroup members and members of the public to the meeting, and led introductions.

Wendy Rickman presented a Request for Information (RFI) and noted that was being posted publicly on the Department of Human Services (The Department) website. The RFI outlined the scope of work to be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Learning Labs. Wendy said this process would function similarly to the children's mental health crisis services RFP and that there will be a period of time where anyone can provide input to the issuing officer, who is Michelle Muir and can be reached at mmuir@dhs.state.ia.us, before the blackout period when the RFP will be issued.

Wayne Clinton asked how potential bidders and other interested parties would get information on the RFP. Wendy answered that it would be posted on <http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov> publicly, sent out to a number of email lists to which members of the public can subscribe, and sent to anyone who subscribes to updates on the website.

Amy Shriver asked how the target population was chosen for the Learning Labs. Wendy Rickman said the legislation specified children who had mental health needs as well as involvement in at least two other systems. Gail Barber said the Workgroup had to start somewhere and chose to help children who were at the highest risk.

Director Palmer said this project aims to change the culture in children's services. Currently, children's services are segmented into several categories that do not collaborate with each other. Director Palmer said the aim of this effort is for people and entities who care for families and children to collaborate with each other to meet the needs of the whole child.

Wendy Rickman said this project was aimed to address families who are involved with multiple systems as navigating them can be difficult for families. Rick Shults noted that it is not often that the Legislature directs departments to work together.

Representative Heaton said he would like to see collaborative efforts like this take hold, and that he hopes the culture of collaboration makes it all the way from the ground level to the state-level departments.

Rick Shults said the Children's Mental Health Crisis RFP was available online at bidopportunities.iowa.gov. This means that it is officially in a blackout period, and any communication about the RFP must be done through the issuing officer, who is Suzanne Fross. Suzanne can be reached at sfross@dhs.state.ia.us.

Jerry Foxhoven opened the discussion on early identification and early intervention by asking what providers, teachers, neighbors, or other concerned people should do when they notice "red flags" in a child. How should children and families enter a children's mental health system. Rick Shults said early identification and intervention is less well-known and less prescriptive than most areas of mental health.

Sarah Brown spoke about the Department of Education's Mental Health First Aid initiative that has sixty-two trainers across the state, and has trained over 1200 adults to identify mental health needs in children, and provide a first response. She noted that this effort also aimed to build a culture of collaboration between organizations who serve children.

Sarah Brown and Rick Shults described the process of how an individual who had received children's mental health first aid training would recognize characteristics or behaviors in a child, contact the family, and refer them to resources.

Representative Heaton asked who would guide the family through the system. Sarah Brown explained that the individual who identified the needs in the child would make the initial contact with the family, and then refer them to a care provider.

Representative Staed stressed the importance of collecting data on outcomes.

Public Comment

Lana Herteen of Blank Children's Hospital said she was impressed to see trauma informed care being discussed by the Workgroup, and that this could be a launching point for other work. She suggested the Child Traumatic Stress Network as a resource.

Gladys Noll Alvarez of Orchard Place spoke about Orchard Place's Trauma-Informed Care program. She said there is a difference between trauma-informed care interventions and trauma informed care, and that she was pleased to see discussion of a "Two generation solution" that includes the whole family.

Rhonda Rairden-Nelson from the Iowa Department of Public Health encouraged the Workgroup to think about the professionals who would be providing children's mental health services, and the specialized training those professionals would need to receive.

Teagan Roeder asked what a child or youth should do if a parent is not willing to seek treatment to meet their child's needs. Jerry Foxhoven said this was a very important question that would have to be addressed at some point.

The Workgroup took a break for lunch at 12:05 pm.

The Workgroup returned from lunch at 1:07 pm

Jerry Foxhoven welcomed the group back and spoke about a discussion draft of children's mental health services the Workgroup had developed. He stressed that this was meant to serve as a general guideline and not to be overly prescriptive.

Rick Shults presented the discussion draft. There was a discussion on the transition to adulthood and the appropriate service for that period.

Senator Mathis asked how Medicaid MCOs would adopt these services. Director Palmer said the object of this discussion was to begin development of "Core Services" which will be the foundation for a children's mental health system.

Representative Heaton asked if these services were to cover all children or just those on public insurance programs. Director Palmer answered that the group may not be able to mandate coverage for all children, but the Workgroup should focus on what it can do.

Rick Shults spoke about his progress with geomapping children's mental health services and presented examples of other geomaps that already exists. He said that the maps the Department of Human Services is developing are only designed to show where services are currently located, but not other factors such as their capacity.

Public Comment

Mary Nelle Trefs challenged the Workgroup to focus on primary prevention and secondary prevention as a way to reduce traumatic events. She encouraged the Workgroup to get as much information as possible on access.

Gladys Noll Alvarez said there is a level of care missing from the Workgroup's array, and noted the importance of day treatment and partial hospitalization in an array of children's services. She said there is a lot of therapy that happens at this level, and a lot of collaboration as well.

Teagan Roeder thanked the Workgroup for their work and for taking comments and input from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.