
Others present: Steve Brown, Barb Dahl, Michelle Faith, Danielle Fox, Julie Harmon, Lorie Reller, Julie Siegert.

Minutes:
Meeting called to order at 4:00pm by Janet Williams

Introductions made by those present

May 29th, 2019 Minutes approved

Next LAC meeting will be August 27, 2019 at the Workforce Center in room 257

Children’s Services - Child Welfare Trends, Presented by Steve Brown and Suzanne Arntson

- Number of initiated child maltreatment assessments
  
  - Slight increase due to Social media with young children and families.
  
  - Intakes accepted for assessment and/or investigation in 2018
    - Belle Plaine - 70
    - Jordan - 93
    - New Prague - 59
    - Elko New Market - 38
    - Webster - 4
    - Shakopee - 324
    - Prior Lake - 163
    - Savage - 140
    - Lakeville - 15
- Number of Children in out of home placement

  - Currently at our highest with social media increase

- **1. Strategic plan to end child abuse and neglect**
  - To support Scott County’s mission to “Advance safe, healthy and livable communities through citizen-focused services” though implementing a community-driven strategic plan to end child abuse and neglect across the following priorities: cultural competence, affordability, service array, service coordination/integration
  - Foster America fellow - Heather Wilson, 18 months January 2019-June 2020

- **Continuum of Child Welfare Responses**

- **Implementation structure –**

  - Stakeholder Advisors meet quarterly, next meeting is end of July

- **Steering Committee Members**
  - Represent
    - Parents and Families
    - Foster Parents
    - Community providers: Faith-based, early childhood, DV/SA, physical and mental healthcare, Cultural-based
• Schools
• Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC)
• Law Enforcement
• Courts and Attorneys
• Scott County Board
• County Agency Leadership and staff: Child Welfare, Public Health, Community Corrections

• Guiding Principles
  ○ Children should remain with their parents/families whenever possible.
  ○ Parents, extended family, friends and communities play key roles in keeping children safe and supporting families.
  ○ Interventions must be tailored to the unique cultural needs of children and families.
  ○ Government cannot and should not independently lead work on ending child abuse and neglect.

• LAC Discussion
  ○ Look at access to mental health
  ○ Broad choice – multiple options
  ○ Identify the need
  ○ Education classes/parenting classes
  ○ Online website of resources
  ○ Having the church get more involved
  ○ If agencies worked together to communicate services offered
  ○ Change the stigma of child welfare
  ○ Advertise with community events.
  ○ Connect county/schools/hospitals about families in crisis

• Potential engagement opportunities for the LAC in supporting this work
  ○ Participate in sub-committees
  ○ Help target outreach for stakeholder advisory meetings
  ○ Promote community awareness campaigns, material dissemination, leveraging professional and social networks to engage more and diverse partners.
  ○ Consider options for community-based service delivery and expansion

• 2. Birth to five interventions (B25)
  ○ B25 CP interventions
    ▪ Dedicates experienced child protection workers to support families with children ages 0-5, and 1+ caretakers dealing with chemical dependency
    ▪ Shifts practice to build capacity for caseworkers to spend additional time with families to encourage parental treatment and recovery
    ▪ Expedites referrals for children experiencing delays
    ▪ Builds relationships with chemical dependency treatment providers
    ▪ Works with extended family in their understanding of the signs and symptoms of use to support long-term recovery and safety planning
  ○ B25 Multidisciplinary team
  ○ Pilot with St. David’s Center for Child and Family Development
    ▪ Attached Bio-behavioral Catch-Up (ABC)
- Fostering relationships
  - About Fostering Relationships
    - A promising strategy that shifts traditional paradigms within supervised visitation by:
      - Bringing birth parents and foster parents together during visitation for skill-building and continuity of appropriate parenting techniques
      - Understanding that foster parents are a support not a substitute for birth parents
      - Creating space for children to feel safe and to ensure their needs are being met
      - Supporting consistency for child(ren) regardless of placement, easing child regulation during points of transition

- **3. QPI - Quality Parenting initiative**
  - Quality parenting initiative
    - Statewide launch – Fall 2017
    - Scott County Launch – May 2019
  - What is Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)
    - Focus on improving outcomes for children in the foster care system. All children deserve excellent parenting.
    - Approach to strengthen caretaker’s parenting skills to support children
    - Comfort calls between foster and birth parents within 48-hrs of placement
    - Fostering Relationships

- **4. Children’s Mental Health**
  - Eligibility
    - Case management – Presumptive eligibility
    - Residential treatment screenings
  - Case Management
    - Assessment, Planning and linking to services
    - Family preservation and placement prevention
    - Crisis assistance planning/coordination
    - Respite
  - Challenges
    - Severity and complexity of needs
    - High number of adopted children
    - Availability of services – psychiatrist, in-home supports (PCA, CTSS, Mentoring); crisis bed options
    - Residential treatment waitlists
    - Child protection involvement
    - Legal involvement

- **Potential engagement opportunity for LAC**
  - Consider identifying a current/recent parent of a young person receiving CMH services to serve on LAC
  - Consideration how we can increase efforts to minimize youth from crossing over into the legal system.
Final Draft Objectives – Thoughts?

- **Community and individual health**: Through strategic partnerships, citizens will have convenient and reliable access to an expanded array of services and activities.
- **Housing**: Partners will come together to support expanded housing resources, recognizing that housing is a community foundation.
- **Children**: Strong families and community partners will come together supporting children in having safe, healthy, and successful lives.
- **Infrastructure**: Private and public partners collaborate to develop a foundation promoting economic and employment opportunities.
- **Performance**: Identify and implement changes to service delivery leading to improved outcomes.

Janet Williams thanked everyone for the hard work and input and this is a topic that will be on future agendas for more discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

Minutes by Kasey Theis, Scott County Health and Human Services