

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: PAC (JJAC)

DATE: Friday, October 24, 2008

TIME BEGAN: 7:30am

TIME ENDED: 8:50am

FACILITATED BY: Alan Robichaud

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Betty Anson, Donna Swett, Tom Swett, Dan Kusch, Randy Brough, Diane Lynch, Jim Sawyer, Devon Benson, Christa Clapp, Ralph Morin, Ray Barrett, Mollie Babcock, Brian Loanes, Dianne Zawacki, Jena Vincent, Dan French

STAFF: Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud

1. **Introductions** Donna Swett, the Interview Coordinator at the Greater Laconia Child Advocacy Center, will attend PAC as a representative from the Child Advocacy Center.
2. **CFR 42 Review** - *Jim Sawyer* Jim responded to a question asked last month from Lisa Marie Sposta related to the HB 1370 information sharing discussion. She asked whether the federal confidentiality statutes around substance abuse (42CFR) “trumps HB 1370”. Jim reviewed the federal statutes (CFR42) and said that as the Youth Services Bureau Challenge Course and Prime For Life fall under the federal confidentiality guidelines, this statute does apply to them. This means that they cannot share, even under HB1370, any information about specific juveniles enrolled in these courses. This statute also applies to any non-profit agency providing substance abuse counseling, unless they secure release forms from each youth.
3. **Mapping of Screening and Assessment Tools** As part of the Systems Integration Initiative, it is necessary to understand how agencies process cases, how these cases flow through these agencies, what screening and assessment tools are used, and where key decision points exist.

Genesis – Ray Barrett

Ray Barrett, Director of Child and Family Services at Genesis, began the discussion with an overview of his agency. Genesis is one of ten designated community mental health centers that contract with the state to provide mental health services. Genesis covers Belknap and lower Grafton counties and offers services to the critically mentally ill. They also provide outpatient mental health services and emergency services, 24/7. Genesis has Master’s level therapists that offer Function and Support Services (previously known as MIMS) through office visits and group activities. Their staff also includes both full and part time psychiatrists, psychologists, and mental health interns. All services are tied to specific treatment plans.

Ray outlined the typical flow of cases:

- (1) Client calls, Contact sheet completed and Intake interviews scheduled. Parents are sent letter confirming their appointment along with a Child Developmental history to complete
- (2) Clinician conducts Intake Assessment with client
 - (a) Complete Intake database that include psychosocial history and preliminary diagnosis.
 - (b) The tools used are:
 - Behavioral Assessment of Child Behavior (BASC)
 - Beck inventory for depressions and anxiety
 - Critical Incident Survey for children with possible trauma history
 - CRAFFT for all children over the age of 12.
 - (c) Next appointment scheduled
 - (d) Complete initial treatment plan which is effective for up to 90 days
 - (e) Complete eligibility (CAFAS) which is effective for 1 year from the date signed by the clinician
 - (f) Schedule psychiatric evaluation if needed
- (3) Intake presented at Disposition meeting (Tues or Thurs) About 60% of clients meet with a psychiatrist. The clinician presents the case and psychiatrist offers input. The psychiatrist signs Intake and the clinician begins to engage the client and family developing an on-going treatment plan.
- (4) Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation (CPE) completed by psychiatrist
- (5) Clinician uses information from this Psychiatric evaluation to develop the treatment plan
- (6) Treatment plan developed with client and family and signed by the psychiatrists
- (7) Services provided as prescribed

- (8) Quarterly treatment plan updates are completed every 3 months.
- (9) Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation is updated in one year. This CPE is a key component to the annual update is critical in the development of the new treatment plan
- (10) New treatment plan is completed within one year from the date of the treatment plan

Ray said that they do not always meet with clients at the Genesis facility. They also see children and youth in school settings where they already have an ongoing presence, such as at Laconia Middle and High Schools, Inter-Lakes schools, Prospect Mountain High School, Alton Central School, and Winnisquam Regional Middle and High Schools. Genesis prefers to reach kids where they are. They also see kids at the Laconia Clinic and at Laconia Pediatrics.

Treatment plans include office visits, function and support services, medication management, family therapy, group therapy. They operate with a medical model; services are prescribed by a psychiatrist.

Ray said that key decision points are: Referral & initial screening, Intake, Eligibility determination, Dispositional meeting, Placement in treatment, Develop of treatment Plan, and the quarterly follow-up meetings.

Genesis also collaborates with Child and Family Services and New Beginnings with a Trauma Intervention Program, funded through a federal VOCA grant. They have been able to use technology for specific staff training, a strategy they will continue to use.

Juvenile Probation and Parole (NH DJJS) – Dan French

DJJS is not involved with the client until the petition is adjudicated. Once that happens their process includes:

- (1) Assessment The tools used include:
 - (a) GAIN SS for sorting out substance abuse, mental health, and behavioral issues
 - (b) Risk Needs Assessment that identifies risk and protective factors to help them create appropriate levels of supervision
 - (c) Instead of complicated Assessments, judges may order “Summary Dispositions” which allow JPPOs to develop plans based on case and client summaries provided by those involved. Judges feel that as the actual assessment tools can take several months to complete, it is just as effective to have them under JPPO supervision for that time with no specific plans. JPPOs can just as effectively gather sufficient information through their observations and interactions with the youth and their families to develop effective plans.
 - (d) There is also “court house caucusing” right before adjudication with those providers who have been involved in specific cases. This is valuable information for developing plans.
 - (e) Schools are “joined” as directed and needed.

Law enforcement referrals to court diversion also provide a “key decision point”.

Dan said CHINS and delinquency cases are “placed” using these qualifiers: Safety of the community, Level and quality of parental supervision, and Availability of appropriate services. Their placement goal is most always-family reunification. Juvenile Case plans are reviewed by a third party (Easter Seals) using three criteria: Permanency planning, well-being, and safety. There was a discussion of similarities, differences, and areas of overlap with DCYF, important points to understand as these two systems often interact with the same families.

ACTION:

- **Christa Clapp, DCYF, will share how child protection cases flow at the next PAC meeting, providing clarity to the similarities, differences, and overlaps between DJJS and DCYF.**
- **During this mapping exercise that will occur in PAC meetings over the next several months, PAC members will identify and share their recommendations for improvements to these processes.**

4. Alan Updates

- *Quarterly Statistical Reports* Is there interest in pulling together statistics from the various providers on a regular basis (quarterly) that can be a part of 1-page summaries posted on member websites and distributed as fact sheets?
- *Liability Concerns Re Community Service* Legislation has been proposed to amend RSA 169-B:10 by excluding employers, individuals, organizations, entities or diversion programs from any worker compensation or liability related to community service performed by youth as part of this RSA. Peter Brigham, former YSB Director and current Director of Hillsborough Youth Services, identified this gap and assisted the Legislative committee in proposing change to the statute.
- *2008 Community-Juvenile Justice Report Card* has been distributed. It has been posted on the Council's website, which has also had a major update.

[PLEASE NOTE] The November and December meetings conflict with the holidays so we will schedule the next meeting for December 12. Please mark your calendars.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, December 12, 2008 7:30-9:00 AM

WHERE: Busiel Mill, Laconia