

Children's Issues Committee, November 15, 2022, 1:00pm

ACMH Update – Jane Shank

Jane was not available for an update. Group had no discussion.

DHHS Updates – Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Phil Kurdunowicz, Patty Neitman, Mary Chaliman – MDHHS

Mary Chaliman reported that the Enhanced Treatment Foster Care Pilot is currently taking place in Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren and 2 other counties, which brings clinicians to the home and helps to connect them with behavioral health services. It's a short-term program to help keep the child in the foster parents setting/home. Mary also reported that a Community Reintegration Analyst has been hired. QRTP is required to provide aftercare for 6 months and the analyst is looking at this information. Mary stated she Chairs 2 workgroups that have been formed from the MI Kids Now initiative. One is on placement, and one is on reintegration. Mary stated that they are working closely with Patty Neitman to help create a child welfare clinical review team. This team is working on solutions for when a child is stuck in the ED or escalating, by utilizing urgent requests. Mary confirmed that this would involve any who had a stake in the Child's case, including CMH. Group briefly discussed turnover and staffing for some of these initiatives, as well as the difficulties faced by those.

Phil Kurdunowicz spoke about MI Kids Now. He gave details on the process of implementing some of the work from 3 different initiatives that are now intersecting. He stated that over the next 2 months, the 3 sections of the Children's Services Bureau will be coordinating their efforts on these initiatives. Group expressed concern that children at the local level could get lost. Phil clarified that this would be for the system development, not service delivery. Group also expressed concern that things currently being done at the local level that are working could be undone inadvertently. Phil stated that the Department is sensitive to this and is working to avoid that. Phil spoke about which team are active at this time. There is increased attention on how to achieve the goals of MI Step. These teams are:

- ✓ Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Implementation
- ✓ Intensive Crisis Stabilization Services
- ✓ Workforce Development
- ✓ Community Reintegration Process
- ✓ Community Behavioral Health Placement and Treatment Options
- ✓ Care Coordination

Phil spoke about the Workforce Development team, stating they are working on the loan repayment program and internship program. Phil then spoke to the Intensive Crisis Stabilization Services team. They are working on the mobile response teams grant, which was offered to all 46 CMHs, of which 18 CMHs applied for. There will be a second cohort later this year.

Phil stated that the Care Coordination Team is working on strengthening Wrap Around services and second tier care coordination for children who don't need the frequency and intensity of Wrap Around Services. Group asked if this was the same model as the CCBHCs are using for Care Coordination Team. Phil stated this was yet to be determined. Todd Koopmans asked if any previous models were being looked at, such as Circle of Support, to be used by this team. Phil stated that prior support efforts for transition age youth is important, and they are hoping to include areas of this.

Kim Batsche-McKenzie reported that the roll out of MichiCANS has been moving along well. Level of care needs are included in these models, and input from groups such as the Children's Administrator group are extremely helpful. Progress is being made in embedding MichiCANS in electronic medical records. The plan for implementation of MichiCANS is to rollout a soft pilot in FY24, and statewide in FY25. Kim stated that anyone interested in joining the Soft Pilot should contact her. Kim then spoke about other teams as part of the MI Kids Now initiative.

She stated that the Community Behavioral Health and Placement Options Team is looking at how to support needs for children in child welfare, and beyond. This includes how to support children's therapeutic foster care, transition placement homes, and respite care.

Kim reported that there is a data quality and monitoring section, and the new data analyst is Joseph Knizacky (email knizackyj@michigan.gov). CAFAS, PECFAS, DHHS incentive, etc. – any contract data should be sent to him.

Kim also reported that email information that formerly came from Jeff Weiferich will now be coming from her to all Children's Administrator Forum members. Connie asked that this also be sent to the CMH Directors as well to help keep all informed. Kim will do that.

Patty Neitman then spoke about the Community Reintegration Process Team, which will develop processes to support children youth and families as children are transitioning from some sort of higher level of care. She stated that this team is a little different in that this team does not have a proposed strategy or model in place. This team launched recently and is looking at possible models from other states that have been successful, and how this work will work with the Care Coordination Team. They are also looking at a previously model funded – CBAT (Children's Behavioral Action Team – now known as CSTS, Children's Transition Support Team).

Patty spoke about a PowerPoint regarding Advocates for Youth and Families. She will send this document to Monique for distribution to the group. This presentation highlights this advocacy work. It highlights urgent needs for children in the child welfare system.

Problem solving around extremely difficult cases is discussed, and a shared review process on concerns and inquiries that is being launched. Patty reported that several one-page flyers on processes are being developed and should be circulated soon.

Legislative Update – Alan Bolter

Alan gave updates on last week's election stating that this was a historic election for Democrats as they now will control every aspect of State Government since 1984. They flipped both the House and Senate to a Democratic majority. He stated that all 3 Proposals passed as well. On Thursday last week, various caucuses held their leadership meetings. Senator Winnie Brinks will be the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator Sam Singh will be the Floor Leader. Representative Joe Tate will be speaker of the House. Alan gave more details on leadership determinations from that meeting. Alan went on to state that this sweep by Democrats will likely produce a very small Lame Duck session (possibly 3 days), and most of this time will be farewell speeches. Senator Shirkey's legislation does not seem to have any probability of movement. Alan reported that the recent proposal by Senator Shirkey and Representative Whiteford (combined) did not gain any traction, nor did it garner support from MDHHS. He reminded everyone in the group that this does NOT mean that privatization efforts will go away. The Association will be providing talking points and welcome/introductory letters to all incoming legislators, and they would like this Children's Issues committee to come up with ideas to replace any suggestions of one managed care entity to give to legislators on this subject. Also, looking at Recipient Rights, MH parity, inpatient access, CCBHC as a type of model for access to care, etc. would be suggested topics to include. Right to Work, prevailing wage and gun control will likely be policy topics for these legislators right off the bat. Group briefly discussed what and how the issue of privatization may continue to be brought up by Health Plans. Alan mentioned DSNPs and Medicaid rebid. Christine Burk stated that advocacy needs to be more proactive than reactive moving forward. Kay Randolph-Back stated that she has seen legislation passed in the wee hours of the night before, and this could happen again. Alan stated that even if that were to be entertained, the Governor simply would not pass it. He stated that with the Republican's loss of the majority in the Senate, this is not likely to be discussed during Lame Duck. Kay stated that there were currently 2 bills in the legislature right now regarding Parity and she wondered what the status is on those. Alan stated that one of them is regarding a report that is submitted to the Government already required, as to whether they are following parity rules, so it does nothing to advance parity. Pat Weighman asked about the plan to be put together over the next 3 months, wondering if a group was going to be put together. Connie Conklin stated that there will be a group put together soon that will include folks from the Children's Issues committee and Children's Administrators. Pat stated that they are glad to be of assistance in any way they can. Group continued to briefly discuss important factors to keep in mind moving forward in working with both the Legislature and the Department.

Child Psychiatric Bed Crisis – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Connie stated that these are real issues that we deal with every day. Those on this call agree that services can be provided but we can't find a solution for placement.

Workforce Challenges – WHERE ARE WE NOW? Demand is up while workforce has become critical.

No discussion.

Children's Administrators Forum Update – Gwenda Summers, CEI

October meeting minutes

Gwenda stated that the main focus of the last meeting was Youth deemed not competent. She stated that not having a place to go, and instability of these youth was discussed. MDHHS gave a presentation on this topic. She stated that Juvenile Justice steps back when youth are deemed not competent, and some serious situations arise. Some of these youth cycle through Hawthorn. She reported that Mary Chaliman spoke to the need for placement for youth in the child welfare system. Also discussed was youth who are too acute for hospitalization, and the absurdity of that notion.

Committee Proposed Focus Areas for 2023

Child Psychiatric bed Crisis

Threats to our Children's system of care efforts/KB lawsuit

Policy, Advocacy, Gaps in Services

Create strategies for workforce capacity issues in our system

Other

Zoom meetings only for November 2022 and January 2023. Hybrid options (both Zoom and in person meetings) will be offered beginning in March 2023.

Patty Neitman will do a more in-depth presentation on the PowerPoint provided during today's meeting at the January meeting. – ADD TO JANUARY AGENDA UNDER DEPARTMENT UPDATE SECTION

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Issues Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 1:00pm. This meeting will be held via Zoom only.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.