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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Marla McDade
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Administrator

Nevada Children's Commission Behavioral Health Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M - Adjournment

VIDEO CONFERENCE:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTBmYTgxYWQtODdhMy00YmIxLTg5M2QtMDI3ZWQ4NjE5OWQw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22be58909a-421c-4f56-857e-c5f7d4ef6f7f%22%7d

TELECONFERENCE LINE: 1-775-321-6111

CONFERENCE ID: 438 160 093#

1. Call to Order – Gwynneth Smith

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Gwynneth Smith.

2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call) – Division of Child and Family Services Staff

Members Present by Video: Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott (joined after roll call), Dr. Joe Haas

Members Absent: N/A

DCFS Staff: Amber Howell (consultant), Elvira Saldana

Public: Sabrina Schnur, Dorothy Edwards, Belz & Case Government Affairs Scribe, Nadine Kienhoefer, Julia Ratti

3. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

4. For Possible Action: Approval of June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas

Gwynneth Smith asked committee members if there were any corrections or comments to the minutes.

There were no recommendations.

Action: A motion was made by Gwynneth Smith to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, and carried to approve the June 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

5. For Information: Discussion of Building Bridges Initiative and Implementation in Nevada – Amber Howell, Division of Child and Family Services

Amber Howell reported the Building Bridges concept was born out of one of the children’s behavioral health subcommittees in Clark County. It was in Nevada several years ago and it is being reintroduced. It is a national initiative which brings stakeholders and providers to speak a common language and have a common practice. It is focused mainly on residential services to discharge or juvenile justice post correctional stay. The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) works on 5 principles around family driven youth guided care, cultural competence, and clinical excellence. It is all about performance-based outcomes, accessibility, community involvement, and transition planning. BBI will come out and assess children’s mental health and provide a report with recommendations. The plan is to have 15-20 people be a part of the core group. The training is for 9 months. Once a month, BBI will come out and everyone will work together on the principles, practices, tools, and policies and procedures. There will be one on one group coaching with BBI to talk about difficult cases. Funding was obtained and training will be provided. Having BBI provide a detailed presentation on what they want to do in Nevada would be beneficial.

Gwynneth Smith commented there is a need for more successful discharges from residential treatment center (RTC) to lower levels of care and stepping down from juvenile justice or correctional placements back to the community. Gwynneth Smith asked if the project is going to happen and go forward or if Amber Howell is working with various stakeholders throughout the state to see if there is the necessary buy in to make it a statewide initiative.

Amber Howell stated the money is there and it can be moved forward. DCFS continues to get recommendations to implement it. Amber Howell would like to include all stakeholders to see if it is something they are interested in.

Kim Abbott commented it is a huge area of need and there is a need for improving transitions. Kim Abbott asked who the types of people are who will be trained, what they will go out and do, how they will span the agencies, and how it will be implemented.

Amber Howell stated the training takes place first. It would be good to have a lead for community providers, children’s mental health, child welfare agencies, and juvenile justice. The second step is to develop common transition plans, policies around what should happen during discharge, and what information should be shared. The leads would train the staff. It will create a philosophy and a way of managing kids within residential facilities.

Gwynneth Smith commented an issue they have seen on a regular basis in their court room is a level of going back and forth and some frustration from the court regarding documentation, treatment plans, and discharge plans. Gwynneth Smith thinks the court would be supportive of it and perhaps want some level of participation in the initiative.

Amber Howell stated she presented to the Court Improvement Program, and they are interested in it. A system is needed where the family and child’s needs are focused on when the child is being discharged.

Dr. Joe Haas commented it is very timely with the new Medicaid rules coming into effect where kids who are adjudicated and in detention or correctional facilities can now have Medicaid 30 days before

and 30 days after discharge. It will formalize case management expectations. Dr. Joe Haas asked if there is room in the project to focus on diverting kids from going into residential in the first place or if BBI is by design focused on discharge planning.

Amber Howell stated the most critical right now is the discharge from correctional and residential and what the process looks like in the courts. There are modules on how they will prevent it from happening and strategies they can use. Modules are picked based on what they want to work on.

Dr. Joe Haas thanked Amber Howell for the presentation.

Gwynneth Smith asked Amber Howell what the next steps are and how the committee can assist.

Amber Howell stated she thinks the next step should be for Mark Nickell to present at the next meeting.

Gwynneth Smith commented it will help with understanding what it will look like.

Amber Howell stated the presentation will clarify how it will help and it would be valuable.

Gwynneth Smith stated the committee welcomes a presentation.

Amber Howell stated the model seems tangible, targeted, and in the areas the state is struggling with the most.

Gwynneth Smith stated knowing how this model will be implemented and how it may be different is important. Gwynneth Smith asked Amber Howell who she thinks would benefit from attending to learn about the initiative.

Amber Howell stated the Children's Commission members, child welfare representatives, and juvenile justice at county and parole level.

Gwynneth Smith stated she would like to try to get as many representatives as possible from various jurisdictions.

Amber Howell commented rural communities and mental health providers should be included as well.

Gwynneth Smith invited the Washoe County Behavioral Health representative and others present in the meeting in the discussion to gain their thoughts.

Julia Ratti thanked Gwynneth Smith for the opportunity and commented a better understanding of the ask will be needed to communicate with leadership and see what can be done.

Gwynneth Smith thanked Julia Ratti for joining and hopes she can join on a regular basis.

Dr. Sheldon Jacobs thanked Amber Howell for the presentation and agrees with what she said. One of the issues Dr. Sheldon Jacobs sees is trying to obtain paperwork from providers, i.e., hospitals, RTCs. It would be useful to have some of those individuals/entities be part of the discussion.

Gwynneth Smith asked if residential facilities would be a part of the Building Bridges training.

Amber Howell stated the state facilities will be a part of it.

Kim Abbott commented a big part of the discharge piece currently overlooked is school. Transition planning is an issue that needs work.

Amber Howell stated the areas that do not have a good process for kids are the ones that should be selected. BBI is a positive movement for kids and families. It focuses a lot on the family system as well.

Dr. Joe Haas commented it will be important for the first part of the assessment be, to look at what services are available to kids leaving and how attainable they are.

Amber Howell stated when the assessment is done, they will learn about what is being discussed now. A critical component is understanding the system and what is causing the obstacles/challenges.

Gwynneth Smith stated she thinks the court is eager to try to be able to track more closely.

Amber Howell stated she does not see it as a new system or something extra. It formalizes and improves the existing processes.

Gwynneth Smith stated the court may be a stakeholder interested in having a statewide structure.

Kim Abbott stated if there is a systematic way of tracking, it will help to better quantify and identify the gaps. Regarding the assessment being done and gathering of data of what is currently happening, Kim Abbott requests they be mindful of where the responses are coming from, and they come across systems.

Amber Howell stated a decision, as a group, can be made as to what should be assessed.

Gwynneth Smith asked if there any questions or comments.

There were no questions or comments.

6. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas

- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
Gwynneth Smith will work on the data request.
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
Potential future BBI presentation
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
A meeting will be scheduled later.

7. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.