

Minutes

Present:

Joan Kinsey	Barb Nissen
Susan Henrie	Lana Temple-Plotz
Carrie Hauschild	Carol Krueger

Absent:

Rosie Higgs, Karen Knapp, Dave Newell

Agenda

Approval of July 30, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Approval of Agenda
Discussion of research currently underway by subcommittee members
Discussion of Next Steps

Discussion

Group reviewed July 30, 2012 meeting minutes and all approved.

Group approved today's agenda.

Group Discussion:

Group recognizes that first and foremost we are tasked with researching and recommending a Level of Care tool to the larger group. Based on our research and ongoing discussions over the past several months, we also recognize the need to ensure:

- Whatever tool we choose fits or compliments the Structured Decision Making Safety Model currently being utilized by the department and the tool be taken into consideration should the department decide on a new safety model in the future.
- Need to consider a set of unifying values/principles important to the process. Those discussed included:
 - Any process or tool must synchronize with Adoption and Permanency.
 - A roll-out process is essential. This should include a clear implementation process and a "hold-harmless" where foster parents rates do not change (i.e. all current youth are maintained at their current level and reassessed over a period of time, 12 months or so). This will allow us to look at Nebraska's foster car population as a whole and see where youth fall.
 - Every foster parents base rate would go up during this time based on the results of the rate subcommittee.
 - Make the tool and payment process as simple as possible.
 - Foster Parents must be present at assessment and have the opportunity to disagree with the rate (grievance process).
 - Any "special needs" rate is understood to be time limited and foster parents are educated on this. Rates will go down as children get better.

- Extend the base rate to relatives.

Guest Speakers:

- Bill Reay, President and CEO, Omni Behavioral Health (via phone) - Group asked Dr. Reay his opinions on the use of the CANS as an assessment tool and he shared the following:
 - Instrument never received any independent research and, in his opinion, lacks inter-rater reliability. Additionally, it is not normed and has no psychometric properties.
 - Dr. Reay recommends the committee consider looking more closely at the Nursing Home industry which approaches level of care from the caregiver responsibility perspective, focusing on the level of caregiver responsibility needed to care for the individual. In addition to matching caregiver responsibilities to youth needs, we should also consider the degree of perceived strain on the caregiver as this is the highest predictor of a youth leaving a setting.
 - Dr. Reay believes level of care thinking misses the point because it assumes treatment is based on the setting and this is not true.
 - The group discussed the need to get a better idea of the current population of children in foster care in Nebraska and Dr. Reay recommended we table this discussion for the time being and consider recommending to the larger committee that a scientific or clinical advisory committee be conveyed to look at this more closely and advise the larger group.
- Carl Chrisman, Supervisor and Lori Hack, Manager of Consumer Recovery; Magellan (in person)
 - Carl and Lori reviewed Magellan's use of the CANS
 - Magellan requires Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities and Therapeutic Group Homes to complete the CANS at intake, every 90 days and discharge.
 - Community Based Service Providers are not required, but encouraged, to use the tool.
 - Carl and Lori reviewed/described the tool they are using and provided a handout complete with resources.

Next Steps

Lana –compile meeting minutes; send VT tools to Dr Reay; connect with Vermont and possibly invite to a future meeting so they can discuss the specifics of their tool and process; forward Magellan powerpoint to group.

Carrie – send Family Strengths and Needs Assessment tool to the group for their review.

Carol – send Washington State manual and additional resources on their tool to the group.

Future Meeting Dates

- a. Wednesday, September 5, 10 am -12 pm, NSOB LL - F
- b. Monday, September 17, 10 am – 12 pm, NSOB, LL - F
- c. Thursday, October 11, 12:30 - 2 pm, NSOB, 5C
- d. Monday, October 22, 10 am-12 pm, NSOB, LL-F
- e. Wednesday, November 14, 12:30 -2 pm, NSOB, LL-F