

Service Coordination Workgroup

Update to the Juvenile Services Committee

September 13, 2016

The Juvenile Services Committee (Committee) convened the Service Coordination Workgroup (Workgroup) to review and refine recommendations related to the cross-system efforts from 2013. These 2013 recommendations are available for review at Appendix A and a listing of the group's membership is available at Appendix B.

Collaboration to Promote Use of Braided Funds

The Committee and the workgroup have held discussions to coordinate the group's efforts with other similar committees and groups. Nebraska's Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (the Crime Commission) is a state agency working to improve youth's access to services through many different initiatives, including the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) is a group working towards improving juvenile justice, and statutory duties include making recommendations to the Crime Commission on awards of juvenile justice related grants. These groups were identified as being necessary to achieve the Committee's recommendations. The committee and workgroup will continue to explore how to collaborate with other groups and agencies to collaborate and coordinate efforts, including braiding funds.

Proposed 2016 Recommendations:

1. Promote a collaboration between NCJJ, the Crime Commission, and the Committee to capture more accurately the current efforts toward and barriers preventing the braiding of funds.
 - a. Collaborate with the Community Planning Subcommittee of the NCJJ to examine the possibility of adding a section outlining the use of braided funding into the planning requirement for Community Based Aid Grant Applications.
 - b. Work with NCJJ to submit a TA request to Center for Coordinated Assistance to the State (CCAS) to do a crosswalk analysis of current efforts and gaps in the braiding and blending of the community based aid funds.
2. Engage with stakeholders to create a process that streamlines or standardizes reporting for braided funding.

Collaboration to Improve Educational Outcomes

The 2013 Committee Report recommended the creation of a Committee under the umbrella of the Nebraska Children's Commission to address educational needs of children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice system. After identifying existing committees and groups, the Workgroup is evaluating them to determine if the recommended structure already exists, and identifying stakeholders who should be involved with this issue.

Proposed 2016 Recommendations:

1. Assess current collaborative groups with an education focus to determine if any are assessing and/or addressing the educational needs of youth involved in the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System.

2. Ensure that representation of the Department of Education is involved with the work of the Committee.

Collaboration to Include Juvenile Justice in the System of Care

The Nebraska System of Care is an initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health, which creates a comprehensive and sustainable system of care that is youth guided, family-driven, trauma informed, and culturally responsive to improve outcomes for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families. The workgroup has identified the following recommendations as ways to support and collaborate with the System of Care initiative and ensure the inclusion of juvenile justice.

Proposed 2016 Recommendations

1. Review the data related to service gaps and outcomes gathered as part of the System of Care to assess its ability to address the behavioral health needs of youth involved in the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System.
2. Request The Division of Behavioral Health and/or its partners to present updates to the Committee on a quarterly basis.
3. Request the addition of a representative from the Division of Behavioral Health on the Committee.

Collaboration to Promote Collective Impact and Community Collaboratives

Collective Impact is a model that many community collaboratives in Nebraska use to improve identified outcomes in a community. These communities work closely together to gather data, implement programs, and connect families and children to needed resources and services. The shared nature of the Collective Impact model allows communities to address complex issues through developing a common agenda, establishing shared measurement of progress, coordinating efforts, encouraging continuous communication, all with a strong backbone organization to coordinate this work. Communities in Nebraska have seen results with this method, and the workgroup encourages widespread use of this model in addressing youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system, or at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system.

Proposed 2016 Recommendations

1. Identify policy barriers that communities face in using the Collective Impact model or creating and maintaining community collaboratives and create recommendations to address or remove the barriers.
2. Encourage state funded entities to fund in a manner that boosts the use of the Collective Impact Model.

Collaboration for Workforce Development and Service Access

The 2013 recommendations recognize the importance of the workforce in establishing adequate statewide mental health and behavioral health services. Workforce is a key component to ensuring that youth and families access needed services. Due to differences in demographics across the State, not all areas of the State have the workforce and population to sustain all services and programs necessary to serve families. While the System of Care initiative, the Community Based Aid Grants, and Community

Collaboratives have begun the work to identify service gaps and address workforce issues, the workgroup has identified process measures and additional recommendations to continue to develop an adequate workforce, across youth-serving systems.

Proposed 2016 Recommendations

1. Encourage the use of the three process measures below when programs, services, and models are implemented in Nebraska to ensure that the system design matches the workforce:
 - a. Engage with the workforce to determine feasibility and ease of implementation.
 - b. Engage with licensing entities to ensure that the program is in line with licensure requirements and billing practices.
 - c. Prior to implementation, solicit comments from public and private stakeholders.
2. Consider encouraging the use of telehealth to increase access to services across the state.
3. Consider incentivizing professionals and service providers practicing in rural areas to acquire necessary training, certification, approval, and/or utilize certain payer sources to serve youth with involvement or at-risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system with increased payment, mileage, or other financial incentives.

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