

Meeting Minutes
Ottawa County Human Services Coordinating Council
April 25, 2007
9:30 a.m.
Juvenile Detention Services Conference Room

Attending: Andrea Mulder, OCHSCC Administrative Coordinator
Pat VerDuin, Family Court
Lisa Stefanovsky, Ottawa County Health Department
Ann Tabor, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Janet DeYoung, Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland Area
Joel Dye, City of Holland
Michael VandenBerg, Good Samaritan Center
Steve Eckert, Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance
Bud Ferguson, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District
Bill Raymond, Community Action Agency/MI Works
Gerry Cyranowski, Community Mental Health
Loren Snippe, Department of Human Services (DHS)

Absent: Ron Frantz, County Prosecutor; Gail Ringelberg, North Ottawa
County Council on Aging; Patrick Moran, Greater Ottawa County United
Way; Bill Robb, MSU Extension Services

I. Strong Families Safe Children: Review of Annual Report

- Overview by Loren Snippe of the 2005-2006 Annual Report that was turned in to the State (required). Review includes total grant monies, total monies expended and fiscal breakdown explanation. In the future, grant recipients will be presenting information about their services so the OCHSCC may hear what these agencies do and how SF/SC funding supports those efforts.

II. Strong Families Safe Children Grant Recipients

- A. Bethany Christian Services – Steve Eckert --Review of the Kinship Care Program:
- Mostly grandparents raising their grandchildren.
 - Meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at Calvary Christian Reformed Church; share a meal, break into small groups, children go to age appropriate activity groups. Adults/grandparents meet to discuss legal matters/guardianship, special education parenting, child development refresher, dealing with birth parents, roles and relationships, self-care.
 - Bethany does do recruitment, in Churches primarily and via mailings.
 - One identified outcome measurement: at the end of the contract cycle, are the “families” still intact/functioning?
 - Newest initiative: “respite services” follows established protocol as State mandated for day care providers, addressing an identified need for primary care giver(s) to take care of business, or obtain respite. (Side note from Steve, this is kind-of off to a slow start.)
- B. Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) – Darcy Komejans (for Cora Visscher). See also handouts.
- CAC is accredited (i.e., there are national standards and the agency does meet those standards).

- Proven statistic that the CAC model saves money. Average investigation cost is \$4,000, CAC investigation cost is \$2,900.
 - CAC was really developed to reduce trauma to children that are victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse (so that they don't have to re-tell the story over and over again to "strangers").
 - Everyone on the team is trained in forensic interviewing..
 - It is the purest form of collaboration – working as a team.
 - Statistic: 50% of the children recant their report/testimony in communities that do not have the CAC model.
 - Services are free; there is some [outside] reimbursement (medical component).
 - In Ottawa County, CAC handles around 400 cases per year.
- III. Ottawa Area Special Education Millage Proposal
- Presentation by Karen McPhee, Superintendent and Bud Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Special Needs from the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District regarding the reason for the May 8 Special Education Millage vote. Special education needs have increased dramatically in the past several years and current local funding is not sufficient to continue to provide appropriate services to meet the increased needs.
- IV. Business
- A. Workgroup Updates
1. Access to Health Services
 - a. CMH Block Grant Application, overview by Gerry Cyranowski
 - Focus' on high-risk juveniles; requires use of "best practices" model; calls for a wrap-around approach/family approach; high-risk/cultural aspects must be recognized. Is for \$100,00 per year for three years with a local match required (year one: 75% direct grant monies / 25% local match; year two: 50% direct grant monies / 50% local match; year three 60% direct grant monies / 40% local match), local match can be "in kind".
 - b. Lakeshore Coordinating Council: Karen Youngs Hartley (Executive Director) will be presenting about substance abuse funding and issues at the May OCHSCC meeting.
 - c. Meeting with Service Providers: Lisa and Pat are setting up a meeting with local health service providers, especially those agencies that provide health services to the under and uninsured to discuss combining forces to apply for a Robert Wood Johnson grant opportunity. More will be reported after that meeting takes place.
 2. Great Start Collaborative: brochure ("Report to the Community") distributed.

There was no further business.

Next meeting date: May 23, 2007, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room D, Fillmore Administrative Complex.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail VanVels, Administrative Secretary