



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Children and Youth Subcommittee

Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Members

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Wes Evans
President of the Senate
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Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Commissioner Representative Christine Hunschofsky

Commissioner Larry Rein

Peggy Aune

Patricia Medlock

Maria Bledsoe

Shila Salem

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Commissioner Rein, second Chair
Reeve

Silvia Quintana: Introduction of School presentation for Broward
County. ME was out of the loop for school within the county.
Collaboration allowed ME to be involved. ME and school
collaboration essential for care coordination. BBHC and CFBHN
both have collaboration projects with schools. This will be joint
presentation between BBHC and CFBHN.

Lizette Tabares: Both ME's, serving Broward county and
Hillsborough\Pasco counties. Started with Ray Gadd and Pasco
county but soon joined with Hillsborough. School is the initial point
of contact through school mental health clinician. On-site therapist
eliminates barriers of children having to leave school. MH allocation
plan drives the tiered approach which ensures child receives
services. Monthly steering committees for schools. Collect
performance outcome measures for all providers. Shared
performance, number served and funds utilized data. Carisk is data
management system

Silvia Quintana: Broward county schools hired licensed clinicians to
provide services themselves but needed ME's assistance during
school break times. ME collaborated with schools to expand
provider network. The collaboration allows for real-time information
sharing. Partnership enhances collaboration for the well being of
students. Schools identify needs of children and refer out to ME's in
real time. Online portal system to track referrals (LTI) creates
ability to track referrals. BBHC started in October and doesn't have
a lot of data.

Commissioner Rein: This is a great way to meet the needs of
children and families.

Chair Reeve: How does electronic system work in terms of privacy?

Silvia Quintana: The system meets FERPA and HIPPA compliance. Parent must complete forms allowing data sharing.

Chair Reeve: When there is a variety of different fund sources, is the child referred out to different providers or referred to the provider governed by the DCF contract the ME is under?

Silvia Quintana: The ME refers to the appropriate provider but the care coordination goes through the LTI system regardless of funding source. This is not FASAMS but LTI.

Chair Reeve: Which set of rules does the provider follow?

Silvia Quintana: Provider follows rules of the funding source but still must report to LTI system regardless.

Commissioner Rein: Question to Maria Bledsoe, What was source of resistance for Central Florida area.

Maria Bledsoe: Really was not discussion around the resistance. Internal school district issues.

Commissioner Rein: Does not recall hearing any resistance from school system.

Silvia Quintana: Ongoing issues because there was no tracking and oversight from schools of children who needed services. The LTI system solved issues of oversight.

Lizette Tabares: Collaboration is essential, constant communication and support from superintendent is important.

Chair Hunschofsky: Is there something we can do on a state level to encourage more?

Silvia Quintana: We have to rely on the expertise and roles of each system/expert.

Commissioner Rein: The money needs to follow the child.

Chair Reeve: The legislature and the governors office is looking for concrete actionable recommendations, this seems to be one of those recommendations. This could be a low/medium hanging fruit.

Chair Hunschofsky: This was a recommendation in our interim report. Would the recommendation be to encourage or mandate?

Chair Reeve: If there is a potential for funding to be attached for schools and ME's it will encourage cooperation.

Chair Hunschofsky: This will be a part of our recommendations.

Peggy Aune: Mental Health Assistance Allocation. School district and the DOE are committed to responding to behavioral health issues. Building resiliency and safety is a priority.

Andrew Weatherill: Quoted Statute 1006.041, F.S. School mental health plans requirement. Services must be coordinated. Plan must include direct employment of school based mental health providers. Districts are required to have contracts with one or more community mental health providers. Goal is to ensure students have support in and out of schools. By September 30 districts must report outcomes of mental health plans.

Peggy Aune: Plans are school board approved.

Chair Hunschofsky: Is there follow up to ensure this is done? Is there a certain standard?

Andrew Wetherill: Yes. Ultimately its compliance with the standard.

Peggy Aune: There is a requirement for a designated mental health coordinator and a school safety specialist.

Courtney Smith: Therapeutic Foster Home Licensing
Two pathways to become therapeutic provider; therapeutic foster home and therapeutic group home. DCF responsible for therapeutic foster homes. Group homes licensure is done by AHCA. TFH licensure is responsibility of DCF. Training is done by the CBC's, 21-hour training to become a foster home, additional 30 hours required from AHCA to be a therapeutic foster home. Total of 51 hours required to be considered a therapeutic foster home. Home assessment and background screening required.

Commissioner Rein: Is there a document that outlines the process? CBC's does not contract for the therapeutic foster care beds, that is done through AHCA. Therapeutic foster homes should be available to non-dependent children.

Patricia Medlock: Family Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Families First prevention Services Act provides twenty-nine million dollars. Limits on IV-E eligibility. Nine Evidence-based services on Florida's plan. Behavioral health consultant positions are funded and placed in the field to support child protective investigators. CB Cap Federal Grants are prevention services grants, will issue RFA's soon.

Rein: Would like a presentation from AHCA regarding funding and managed care organizations and from SAMH regarding ME funding.

Public Comment:

Sharyn Dodrill: Please post minutes and documents on the website.

Meeting Adjourned