

Governor's Task Force on Mental Health & Substance Use Workgroup on Children, Youth and Families

Thursday, October 1st, 2015 from 11AM – 1PM

Conference Room 113

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

William E. Lassiter, Co-Chair
Katherine Peppers, Co-Chair
Lisa Cauley, Member
Karen Ellis, Member
Dr. Mike Lancaster, Member
Benjamin Matthews, Ph.D., Member
Greta Metcalf, Ph.D., Member
David Passmore, Member
Judge Donna Stroud, Member
Rachel Johnson, DHHS Staff
Dawn Johnson, DHHS Staff
Kevin Kelley, DHHS Staff

Guests:

Eric Johnson, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare
Stephanie Pollard, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare

11:00AM-12:00PM

Each Member and the two guest speakers from Alliance Behavioral Healthcare provided a brief introduction of their history in mental health, current service/employment and roles in the State of North Carolina, successful programs and areas of concern. Several areas of focus were identified including: foster care, primary care coordination, outpatient mental health services, Juvenile Justice, need for evidence-based frameworks and systems, and use of psychotropic medications in children and adolescents.

12:00-12:20PM

Eric Johnson and Stephanie Pollard provided background and the history of Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, which is Managed Care Organization (MCO) for Wake, Johnson, Durham and Cumberland Counties. Eric Johnson detailed the services performed by Alliance Behavioral Healthcare and their network providers. Care of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Intensive In-home services were identified as the first and second highest service expenditures for Alliance Behavioral Healthcare.

12:20-1:20PM

Members asked questions of the guests from Alliance Behavioral Healthcare. Successful evidence-based programs were identified and discussed such as Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT). The components of successful programs currently operating were identified. Utilizing Mental Health First Aid, a community-based educational program, for addressing issues of stigma and assisting communities with assessment and intervention for individuals experiencing mental health issues. Mr. Johnson stated monitoring of intensive in-home services and care coordination with primary care are areas for improvement. Relating to intensive in-home therapy, the need for evidence-based framework and auditing of services was verbalized by the committee.

The need for further assessment of current services and gaps in services of special populations were identified including: children and adolescents in foster care, in the Juvenile Justice System and care coordination in primary care. Committee members selected to work in small groups and obtain statistical data, list of current services, and address the duties of the workgroup.

1. Examine the efforts that heighten awareness and reduce stigma related to substance use and mental health problems, and provide recommendations to improve these efforts.

Katherine Peppers, Greta Metcalf

2. Evaluating linkages between agencies of state and local government and provide recommendations for the transfer of existing best practices.

Primary Care/Schools: Katherine Peppers, Greta Metcalf

Foster Care: Lisa Cauley, Karen Ellis and Kevin Kelley

Juvenile Justice/Residential Treatment: William Lassiter, Donna Stroud, Dr. Mike

Lancaster, Benjamin Matthews & David Passmore

Statistical Data: Rachel Johnson and Dawn Johnson

3. Examine the link between foster care and mental health and substance abuse services for teenagers preparing to leave the foster care system to improve their outcomes.

Foster Care: Lisa Cauley, Karen Ellis and Kevin Kelley

4. Examine opportunities for the justice system to best manage the cases of young people with mental health and substance use challenges, in order that they reach their full potential.

Juvenile Justice/Residential Treatment: William Lassiter, Donna Stroud, Dr. Mike

Lancaster, Benjamin Matthews & David Passmore

5. Examine the role of specialty courts in North Carolina and provide recommendations on how they can best be utilized.

Juvenile Justice/Residential Treatment: William Lassiter, Donna Stroud, Dr. Mike

Lancaster, Benjamin Matthews & David Passmore

Next meeting:

Date: Monday, October 19th 12:30 – 3:00PM

Location: 3010 Hammond Business Place, Raleigh, NC

Conference Room: 144A-B