**Juvenile Justice Systems Planning Committee**

**November 17, 2021**

**Quick Update on 211**

1. As many services as possible into 211 for youth services
2. 211 will add a button for Youth services and will incorporate the customized worksheet into their annual outreach to all providers. Distinct organizing structure for youth services.
3. We all need to send in to any providers that are targeted to adolescents and not yet in 211.

**Juvenile Justice Planning Work Group Challenges and Opportunities**

Carrrie reviewed the document entitled, “Juvenile Justice Planning Work Group Challenges and Opportunities Summary” which was provided to the Work Group before the meeting. The goal was for the Work Group to prioritize the issues that it wants to discuss further and to inform its ongoing agenda.

There was good discussion with several members offering insight and suggestions. For example, looking at 1.B. of the list Kim Ekert noted that cost, long waiting lists, availability of service providers or services and many other reasons stop families from connecting with services. Kim also noted that looking at #3, a collaborative conference, could be a great tool to get the providers and services on the same page and improve access to the right services.

**Conversation about where the Work Group will focus**

1. The Work Group is focusing on youth in the juvenile justice system through delinquent behavior and also CHINS and the need for more intensive community based services to support our youth. In this same vein, the Work Group will focus on how to build capacity around those more intensive community based services that in turn build capacity in communities.

2. the Work Group will consider piloting less formal programming.

2. Discuss and make recommendations around the limited provider capacity – how do we get kids to the provider?…where is the funding?

3. A caveat offered by Cory Pedersen and that came up several times is, “Families do not go to the services…the services must go to the youth.”

4. It was suggested that the Work Group make recommendations to improve transparency around placement decisions.

5. When discussing the complex case conference system listed at #3 of the, “Juvenile Justice Planning Work Group Opportunities and Challenges”, it was noted that there are various projects in the schools, courts, and non-profit world that strive to have collaborative meetings focusing on youth. Some of these projects are:

a. Dual Status Youth Initiative. Cathy Ferderer discussed this initiative. This collaborative initiative has explored how to prevent youth in the child welfare system from formally penetrating the juvenile justice system, more effectively serve youth that touch both systems, and use research and best practice to inform change to better serve youth and families. The North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative (DSYI) program is a result of this effort. The DSYI program falls under the North Dakota Court Improvement Program.

b. Wayde Sick introduced discussion about the work in the schools developing a collaborative system. He suggested Erin Oban as an expert to invite to the work group for further elaboration.

c. Anna Frissell mentioned the CAC model which is based on the multi-disciplinary team conference to provide a collaborative response to child abuse and has been successfully used for several years in the state as an investigative, medical and mental health treatment, advocacy and prosecution model.

6. Braided funding. Cory Pedersen noted that we need to look at braided funding to pool multiple funding streams toward any one purpose.

7. Diversify and Availability. As to diversification, it was mentioned that we should also look at what individual providers can do and broaden their scope to increase the availability of services in rural communities thereby bringing services to the families. In the present system it is difficult for families to overcome barriers to get to services…no money, no transportation or cost prohibitive, limited capacity and accessibility or services.

Carrie, Anna and Josh will meet between meetings to summarize the discussion for the next meeting.

The next meeting is virtual and scheduled for December 15, 2021 @ 1:00.