

# INTEGRATED FAMILY SERVICES PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the February 5, 2010 Meeting

### I. Welcome/Review Minutes/Introduction of Members

L.K. welcomed members to the meeting and began a round of introductions.

### II. Update from State ICSP Meeting

No information was shared at this time.

### III. High Fidelity Wraparound Update

R.S., Director of Program Development, Pinebrook Family Services gave a Summary of High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) Status Report.

- High Fidelity Wraparound is an evidence-based practice embraced by the Commonwealth of PA with the goal of statewide implementation in all 67 counties by 2012.
- Lehigh County applied and was selected to be one of six early implementer pilot counties of the HFW model within the Commonwealth.
- Pinebrook was subsequently selected via a competitive bid process to partner with Lehigh County Office of HealthChoices to implement the HFW model for 100 Lehigh County transitional age youth (16-21 year olds) over a three year period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. (Youth on the Autism Spectrum do not receive services under this Initiative since specialized services for this population are coordinated through the state's Bureau of Autism Services.)
- At the heart of this team-based, collaborative model is a **youth guided, family driven Planning Process** designed to help youth with complex mental health needs and their families identify and use their strengths and community resources to develop and implement Individualized Plans of Care.
- Supporting youth and their families in becoming functionally self-sufficient and successfully negotiating the transition to young adulthood, while reducing the use of other restrictive mental health services and decreasing reliance on the formal youth and adult-serving systems, is the ultimate goal.
- Educating and mobilizing both the public and private human service sectors and the community-at-large on behalf of this population is also a major thrust of the HFW Initiative.
- Toward this end, Pinebrook has conducted a series of trainings on the Initiative since September 2009, including a community launch of the Initiative in September 2009, large scale trainings of the Lehigh County Department of Human Services staff in December 2009, the Family Group Decision Making and Independent Living Units in January 2010, and the Juvenile Probation Office staff in February 2010 (the Lehigh County IFSP Coordinator has provided support and assistance with this process).

- Additional training and outreach to youth and families, community institutions and organizations, providers, and natural supports takes place regularly and also on a case-by-case basis.
- Pinebrook assembled a qualified HFW team as proscribed by the model consisting of a: HFW Supervisor, HFW Coach, 4 Facilitators, and the hallmark positions of Family Support Partner (FSP) and Youth Support Partner (YSP), both of whom are paraprofessionals who themselves have been youth consumers of behavioral health services or caregivers of a youth with complex behavioral health needs.
- Staff has been trained incrementally in keeping with the schedule set by the Youth and Family Training Institute (YFTI) from the University of Pittsburgh which oversees HFW implementation statewide, and has been very fortunate to be trained by pioneers in the field of HFW such as John Vandenberg.
- The agency also receives regular technical assistance and support from National HFW consultants.
- Engagement of referred youth and families began in early October 2009, after staff had received the required preliminary training.
- Currently there are 11 youth and families actively engaged in services. State and national trainers and consultants have remarked how Lehigh County and Pinebrook have been diligent in getting started quickly and how the HFW team has done exceptional work in learning and implementing the model.
- A key part of the HFW process is a rigorous evaluation of the Initiative and practice.
- Pinebrook's fidelity to the model and clients' satisfaction with the HFW process will be measured by trained, objective observers using a nationally-recognized data collection and evaluation system. This effort will be overseen by the YFTI and HFW national consultants, and coordinated by Lehigh County's IFSP Coordinator and a trained team who will formally begin the evaluation process in April 2010.
- If a referral needs to be made for High Fidelity, please contact Sharon Arangio at Pinebrook Services, 610-432-3919 or contact Damon McCaulley or Dave Hoch.

#### **IV. NGA (National Governor's Association) Plan Presentation –**

T.N. gave a descriptive presentation on the NGA. T.N. distributed information on the Strategies and Action Steps of the Plan and reviewed the Performance Improvement Plan that was distributed in advance of the meeting.

- Pennsylvania is one of the six states that were selected from the National Governor's Association to participate in an initiative to safely reduce the number of children in out of home placement by 20 percent by the end of 2010.
- Lehigh County is one of 16 counties in PA who was selected to participate. It is a joint enterprise between C&Y and JPO to overall reduce the children in care.
- The program is overseen by a county team which includes representatives from the State, the regional office, and employees who get together as a team quarterly in Mechanicsburg and review progress. There are also monthly phone calls held with the State to review progress.
- The program is doing well and has achieved the goal within about nine months.

- T.N. gave an update on Family Group Conferencing which brings the family together along with all of their support systems and people who they identify to address the issues and develop a plan.
- Family Finding was also discussed. This is an initiative in which the family is met with in order to identify in detail the strengths. Teenagers are sat down with and walked thru their life. They discuss who has been important in their lives and to reach back to see if those people can be pulled forward as a support system.
- Family Development Credentialing is a strategy of doing more strengths perspective work with families.
- T.N. informed the group that the Safe Start Program has been expanded for children less than 3 years of age who have been drug impacted.
- T.N. asked that if there are any additional ideas or suggestions for what can be done for strategies to please email her.

## **V. Other Business**

- J.R. gave an update on the Youth Level of Service assessment tool. This tool was started and identifies different domains in a juvenile's life which need to be reviewed. Individual service plans are more tailored now than they used to be. Each is custom made for each child and family.
- J.R. also reported on the ROAD Program – A new prevention program starting in the East Penn School District. It will provide student assistance program at school, therapy, intervention, psycho-educational groups, possibly limited placement into D&A programs.
- R.M. gave an overall update on cases and work being completed in OCYS/MH and MH/MR and the cases/families with complex issues.
- L.K. mentioned that a PA Systems of Care Grant was received. An RFP will be rolled out in March. More information will be available at the next meeting.
- E.C. distributed brochures to the group and also asked for some contact information for County services. E.C. role as a parent liaison to the Allentown School District is to connect the families who are in need of help.

## **VI. Next Meeting Dates:**

- **Friday, May 14, 2010, Room 123**
- **Friday, August 13, 2010**
- **Friday, November 12, 2010**