

INTEGRATED FAMILY SERVICES PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 12, 2010 Meeting

I. Welcome/Review Minutes/Introduction of Members

J.C.S. welcomed members to the meeting and began a round of introductions.

II. IFSP Promising Practice Grant FY 2010-2011/Drug and Alcohol Intervention

J.C.S. reported that Children and Youth received an allotment for truancy in the Needs Based Budget. J.C.S. reviewed with the group what funding would be requested. It was decided that a request would be made for drug and alcohol intervention. Staff training in schools is to be part of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Team to make sure they are trained appropriately to work with youth. Funding was also requested for training for ancillary staff such as cafeteria workers, coaches and bus drivers to train them on how to assist a student if a SAP referral is needed. Funding has been offered to each Lehigh County school district. Dollars were requested to do a consortium this year discussing some smaller trainings. Monies were requested for pre-prom activities to work with SADD chapters in schools to outreach to the students. Lastly, requested were start-up costs for the ROAD program in the Whitehall-Coplay School District which is expected to begin in January.

D.G. updated the group that 21 slots out of 24 have been filled to participate in SAP training. Most school districts have agreed to participate.

C.G. questioned how parents find out about SADD programs. D.G. responded that each school district has forms that were distributed at the beginning of the school year. Information can also be located in handbooks as required by the State. D.G. reported attending each Back to School Meeting for middle and high school and had a table set up for SAP. If anyone has any questions, please call D.G. and she will refer to the contact in the appropriate district. J.C.S. commented that information can also be found on the Lehigh County website. Most school districts also have information on their own websites.

Discussion was held regarding The SADD Chapter Kickoff which was held here at the Government Center on October 28. It included presentations to students and a tour of the 911 Call Center.

J.C.S. will continue to keep everyone updated during the fiscal year.

III. IFSP Plan FY 2011-2012/Work Group

J.C.S. reported that the IFSP Plan was submitted in September for 2011/2012. Lehigh County is one of the counties involved in the most initiatives. The group decided that since so many new initiatives have been started in the last couple years, they should be reviewed and discussed how they can be improved and incorporated into the regular operating practice.

The focus on next year's plan is to take new information and programs that have been worked on and review and determine where improvement is needed, if it's working or how to move forward to integrate services for youth.

J.C.S. mentioned a work group will be created in either January or February to prepare for funds that were requested for next year. She reported the focus of the Promising Practice Grant for next year was Family and Youth Engagement. It was discussed how information is going to be received back from families. A plan being considered is to work with provider community to set up times that a brief presentation would be done and gather information from families on where improvements are needed to accomplish this appropriately. A work group will be developed to work on what feedback is needed.

Funding was requested for a community education forum, for prevention programs in schools and for "Babies First Books" in English and Spanish. The books are given through Early Intervention to promote literacy and reading to babies.

Funds were requested to print a coloring book that was developed by Family Group Conferencing so they can be distributed to youth involved in Family Group in order to get a better understanding of the process.

There was also funding requested to make changes to the Information and Referral Unit waiting room in order to make it a more family friendly environment and also to improve the window. P.H. recommended having a suggestion box in the waiting room as well. J.C.S. will discuss this with J.B.

IV. High Fidelity Wraparound Update

J.C.S. distributed a handout as an update. The age range for services was originally 16-21 years old, but it was opened up to the range of 14-21 through High Fidelity Wraparound with Systems of Care. The target population at the State level is ages 8-18. Lehigh County is currently working with the State to determine if ages 14-21 will be continued or if it will open up to age 8 so more youth can be served.

Since Pinebrook began to accept referrals on October 1, 2009, there have been 70 referrals made; however, not all have been accepted if they did not meet the criteria. Pinebrook is moving towards hiring more staff so they can begin accepting more youth.

J.C.S. reported that HFW is currently funded through the reinvestment plan. The State has not begun funding through MA dollars. A discussion was held regarding this

process. Sometime this summer, Pinebrook Services will begin the process to become MA eligible provider for HFW so Lehigh County is ready to go when the State says that MA can begin funding.

C.G. commented that sometime in the future she would like to see two providers that could do HFW so families would be able to choose. J.C.S. mentioned that after it would go under MA, families would have provider choice.

A discussion was held regarding the need to get information into the local schools and to the guidance counselors. P.T. commented that we should promote our own DHS Information & Referral Unit more so that people know of one point of contact. P.T. also reported that all school districts are involved in truancy committees and that the County and school districts are involved together as well as the schools being represented at the Children's Roundtable. D.G. commented that a good way to get information out is to concentrate on brochures and papers. They tend to get passed around more.

J.C.S. reported the Wraparound Fidelity Index 4 (WFI-4) evaluation process will be this quarter. An individual has been trained at the County level to complete surveys with four team members of eight families. J.C.S. explained the process. C.G. questioned if transportation costs could be reimbursed for families. J.C.S. stated this discussion is on the agenda for the next Executive Committee Meeting.

V. System of Care Update

J.C.S. reported that Lehigh County was selected as one of the first counties to move forward in Systems of Care. A committee was formed in February that met for Systems of Care. J.C.S. gave a definition of SOC – to promote a change in the traditional categorical approach and turn a fragmented service delivery approach into a single comprehensive community oriented delivery system for children with serious mental health challenges and their families.

C.G. requested evaluation forms for quality of service for next FY. She developed questions to be added to the questionnaire.

Any SOC participating county needs to utilize High Fidelity Wraparound as the planning process. Lehigh County is an early implementer with Pinebrook Family Services as the provider.

J.C.S. concluded that the plan in Lehigh County is to continue to have the IFSP Advisory Committee to oversee everything and a goal is to have one integrated single service plan through Systems of Care. She will also continue to update everyone as to where the programs are headed and what needs to be completed to move forward.

VI. CASSP Update

Bulletins / Call for Change

P.T. distributed a handout and spoke about two new Bulletins which will be coming out. She also participated in a WebEx for Housing Coordinators and Children's Mental Health. The new Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) regulations were discussed. P.T. reported on a meeting that will be held to clarify RTF draft guidelines and discussed the concerns. There is also a Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Training Grant beginning in November in four counties – Delaware, Lancaster, Lackawanna and McKeon. The State would eventually like to have it across PA for children ages 2 to 7. Pat reported on "A Call for Change" and listed a draft of 5 major goals in the handout.

VII. Additional Comments / Questions

P.H. reported that she has had requests for training for employees in the workplace as a result of a meeting she held. J.C.S. has been in touch with the individuals who were requesting this training.

J.C.S. thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

- **Friday, February 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 123**