

**NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM
HUMAN SERVICES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

January 20, 2014 8:30 a.m.

NCHC – Wausau Campus

Present:

Cheryl	Adams	Marathon County Special Education
Gary	Bezucha	North Central Health Care
Dean	Dietrich	RuderWare
Sandy	Ellis	Prevention Solutions, LLC
Christine	Ellis	United Way of Marathon County
Linda	Haney*	NCHC Board Member
Dr. Eric	Hartwig	Marathon County Special Education
Paula	Hawkins	North Central Health Care
Cathy	Howe-Thwaites	MCCDA-Head Start
Erica	Huffman	North Central Health Care
Ralph	Illick	Marathon County Public Library
JoAnn	Janikowski	United Way of Marathon County
Joanne	Kelly*	United Way of Marathon County
Amanda	Ostrowski	Marathon County Health Department
John	Robinson*	North Central Health Care
Ginny	Rusch	Birth to Three
Deanna	Schuette	United Way of Marathon County
Mary	Schultz	Children's Hospital of WI - Community Services
Toni	Simonson	North Central Health Care
Joan	Theurer	Marathon County Health Department
Vicki	Tylka	Department of Social Services
Mandy	Wright	State Assembly Representative
Connie	Zebro	Wausau School District
Jennifer	Zynda	D.C. Everest School District

*HSO Committee members

The HSO Committee meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m., joining the Early Years Coalition and Early Years Planning Committee meeting.

The Early Years Coalition is made up of representatives from 30 organizations, working together to improve the lives of newborns and young children.

- Birth to Three – for children with developmental delays
- Social Services Community Response – full case load, often waiting list. Truancy is one of their areas.
- Start Right – they identify pre-natal women at risk for poor birth outcomes. They get referrals from several organizations. Services are provided until age 5.

- Childrens Service Society covers children to age 18.
- Marathon County Special Education – they are screening kids at earlier ages. By the time an issue is identified it is often too late.
- Wausau School District – Early Childhood Program – 10 to 15 children a year with severe behavioral problems are presenting in the 4K program. Parent engagement is the biggest struggle.
- Head Start – they often see parents with mental health issues.
- Representative Mandy Wright is involved in an early brain development forum at the state.
- North Central Health Care (NCHC) Outpatient Clinic – 5 clinicians have been trained in early child therapy. They have been delivering counseling in the schools to Wausau and D.C. Everest, and are now in Merrill. Crisis services – intervention and treatment services. Seeing younger and younger children with suicidal and homicidal ideation.
- NCHC Community Treatment – Comprehensive Community Services is for clients with an already diagnosed mental health or substance abuse issue. They are seeing younger clients, and serve ages 4-18. They work to meet the needs of the entire family.
- D.C. Everest – The counseling in the schools program began in the high school and is now in the middle school, and they will provide the services in elementary schools because they are seeing problems at that age. They are seeing more severe problems at earlier ages.

Discussion points:

- Marathon County Special Ed – they are doing population based screening around mental health. They are looking for predictor variables indicative of children’s problems. Screen children, and collect data to develop programs to redirect children.
- Because most children with behavior problems have parents/other family members with problems, we need a two generational approach to services.
- There is a gap in the under age 4 group, and a gap when parents present in the criminal justice system – what is being done with their children.
- Do we have confidence that the interventions we do are appropriate? Is there uniformity across the community in knowing what to do? The feeling is no. Where is the authority if parents are in denial?
- When is a problem a problem? It may be different clinically versus educationally.
- There is a definite shortage in child psychiatry, not just in our area, but nationwide. How can we use Nurse Practitioners to help with the shortage? Even if we had enough resources, access is still a problem.

These groups will meet again in a few months. At that meeting agenda items will include:

- Capture mental health in the community – who’s providing what services?
- What are techniques to educate parents to get them to access services?
- What are common places behaviors are presenting?
- Of those presenting at age 4, what percent is identified prior to age 4?

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: P. Hawkins