



Together For Kids and Families

Mental Health Work Group Meeting Summary Friday, March 14, 2014 from 1-3:00pm

Welcome & Introductions

Barb welcomed new attendees to the group, Ben Anderson with First Five and Lori Rowley with NDHHS Immunization.

Attendees

Lori Rowley, Ben Anderson, Sharon Johnson, Jen Gerdes, Barb Jackson, Renee Faber, Tiffany Mullison, Kathy Karsting, Lynne Brehm, Mary Balluff, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, and, Mark Hald.

Barb asked members to review the Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2014. Minutes were accepted.

Sub-Committee Updates

1. **Screening tool subcommittee** members are: Mark Hald, Barb Jackson, Kathy Karsting, Traci Penrod McCormick, and Tiffany Mullison. Barb reiterated the charge to the Mental Health work group and summarized the work to date.

Members looked at the rubric developed by the subcommittee. Areas were not ranked in importance. Validity was suggested as one criteria to give greater weight in ranking. Renee suggested the issue of trauma – if not embedded – may need to be given greater focus. Jen questioned if a single tool would meet all the criteria in its entirety.

Barb stated the group will separate areas into groups for method, content, and other. This may help the subcommittee in review and decision making. Mary suggested we distinguish between administered by a parent, child care provider, or a licensed professional.

Many screeners are based on parent opinion/assessment and not based on clinician reporting. The subcommittee will also examine augmenting the screener with questions posed by the pediatrician in the Building Bright Futures manual. Relying on tool with only parent input may result in anticipatory guidance.

The subcommittee asked for input regarding existing tools. No new suggestions were made to the proposed list.

Barb asked what to do if a child's screening results indicate concerns and how referrals are provided. Pediatricians have expressed concern that referrals are not available in all communities. Amy suggested the best method is for the pediatrician to contact the EDN and forward the screening tool

results to EDN. If the child doesn't meet qualifications for EDN, then EDN can make a referral into the community.

Amy shared Head Start and EDN use the ASQ-SE. Practitioners may know how to score the ASQ, but not the ASQ-SE. The scoring methodology for the tools is entirely different. Barb asked if we could connect with those who completed the training. Amy will forward information to Barb on those who were trained.

2. **Training subcommittee on Early Childhood Integrated Skills and Competencies**
members are: Lynne Brehm, Jen Gerdes, Traci Penrod McCormick, and Gay McTate.
Lynne went back through past minutes and examined feedback for what people wanted.
The four met and decided to start small and then think big.

Jen said the group would like to start with a short self-assessment. The subcommittee felt they would need more information on the competencies. The group looked at each of the competencies and similarities across them. The group would like to develop an indicator list for each competency. Then the group would decide if it becomes a self-assessment tool or training guide. Delving further into the indicators of each competency may be the most helpful approach.

Lynne brought forward the concern that funding may be necessary to support this work. Kathy proposed that we approach MIECHV staff; Candy and Renee suggested SOC be a second possible funding source. Lynne will share scope and proposed cost with Kathy and Tiffany so this work can continue.

Mary asked about a statewide initiative for screening for Mental Health across the ages. The Kimm foundation in Omaha has begun work in this area. Lynne offered they may want to expand efforts. Mary will follow up.

Policy Updates

- **LB944, Early Childhood Mental Health**

Ben Anderson with First Five Nebraska shared updates regarding legislation. LB944 is an Appropriations bill to add \$400,000 to nurturing healthy behaviors. The bill has made it through the first round of debate.

- Other:
 - NDE Early Childhood grant program – the amount would add \$3.7 million for new grants and additional funds to hire someone for monitoring and technical assistance.
 - LB901 McGill – 10 PhD level internships at UNMC. Bill on final reading. Amended by Bolz to include Nebraska Mental Health First Aid training program.
 - Barb asked about a MMI bill; Ben will follow up on this. It was for interns being placed in medical office.

- **BECHN Telehealth project, LB556** from last session

This project is for physician's offices to do screening in a pilot project. MMI is then available for consultation. The screening tools is the Vanderbilt Scales in a pilot project. This tool is ADHD

specific and is modified for use with younger audiences. Dr. Joe Evans was unavailable today; Barb will invite him to present at our next meeting.

Update on Screening Resource

- *Understanding Young Children's Mental Health: A Framework for Assessment and Support of Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health* is updated. Melody Hobson will have the document formatted. Barb hopes the resource will be ready within the month.

Training Opportunities

- **Circle of Security-Parenting** – Amy Bunnell

Training dates are confirmed for September 16-19, 2014 in Kearney. Scholarships are available for 50% of the \$900 training fee. Applications are due March 17 for teams to attend. The review team will make decisions regarding the selection of scholarship recipients. Registration will be opened in April.

Mark Hald shared how COS-P is working in the panhandle. Some classes have targeted populations based on age of child. Facilitators have been asked to teach some classes for no fee, as they received the training at no cost. To create sustainability, they are working to offer a stipend to those teaching the classes. Mark is using the components in the clinical setting. 14 educators provide classes in the panhandle. Those trained already include: therapists, psychologist, nurse, EDN staff, MSW with Western Nebraska Community Resources, extension educators, and volunteers of America.

News, Sharing & Upcoming Events

- **Rooted in Relationships** – Lynne Brehm

The Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative is examining community plans and developing strategies. The 3 communities need to do pyramid work. Dakota County has selected the parent engagement system. Plans are in place for recruitment of child care providers in 2 of the communities for the pyramid. The child care community is excited with the pyramid model and outreach to home based child care.

- Renee shared Dawson and Dakota counties are targeted in the underage drinking funds. Renee is willing to share any results from the meetings and assessments.
- The System of Care grant is due next week. Year 1 is planning grant; Year 2 will be on implementation.
- May 4 is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Candy shared materials on activities across Nebraska.

Next Meeting

Tiffany to send Doodle poll for Fridays in May, avoiding May 9 due to ECICC.