

Operations Work Group Minutes
January 8, 2010, 1pm- 3pm
At CCPA
35 Cold Springs Road, Suite 522
Rocky Hill, CT

edited notes

In Attendance:

Judi Jordan DCF
Alyssa Goduti, CCPA
Joe Milke, Klingberg Family Centers
Mike Russo, Wheeler Clinic
Margi Nareff, Shelter for Women
Dan Lyga, Children's Center of Hamden
Doug DeCerbo, Mount St. John
Lisa Baxter, Child & Family of SE CT
Paul Kosowsky, Youth Continuum
Ron Cretaro, CT Nonprofits
Joy Duva, Casey Family Services
Christina Stevens, Casey Family Services
Diane Manning, United Services, Inc.

1. Differential Response:

- Joy Duva and Christina Stevens, Casey Family Services described the theory and practice of differential response and DCF plans to move towards that model. Casey Family Services is partnering with DCF to plan for implementing differential response.
- Attendees discussed the concepts of hubs as a way to coordinate and access services.
- Casey Family Services will be submitting plans and an executive summary to DCF by April 15, 2010, based on input from regional planning groups and other stakeholders. DCF plans to roll out the system in stages beginning September 2010.
- Alyssa Goduti asked about the costs to implement differential response. Christina Stevens explained that there is no new funding or a budget option for DR. DCF is looking to reallocate existing resources.

2. Contracting Update

- Judi Jordan asked attendees about their position on requiring regular updating of a DCF a resource directory based on the interest of 211 in keeping up to date. Most attendees confirmed that their agencies provide updates to 211 on a regular basis and prefer not to have it mandated by contract.
- Judi Jordan referenced Fostering Connections federal legislation which allows the state welfare agency to receive reimbursement for training offered to community providers. DCF is looking to survey providers about training needs and will be

organizing a training advisory group. She also explained that training has to cover specific topics to receive reimbursement. Reimbursement would likely cover more theoretical training related to the child welfare population.

- Judi Jordan explained that payments went out this week and that at this point DCF has not taken any of the 2% cut from providers.
- Attendees asked about the planning process / projections for census in the Board and Care / Residential programs. Ms. Jordan explained that DCF is working to build on projections for the residential census.
- Dan Lyga raised a concern about the single cost freeze and its impact on providers.
- Attendees agreed that for future meetings special guests should be invited towards the end of the meeting after all other business has been completed.

3. Unfunded Mandates:

- Judi Jordan explained that the Department is working to be more mindful of costs of mandates and is willing to examine mandates that could be changed or eliminated.
- Background Checks - Attendees recommended changing the requirements for that public safety has to do outside background checks on staff. Attendees suggested allowing providers to choose their own methodology for background checks for contracted and credentialed services. Private services are often quicker and less costly.
- Nursing Standards - Attendees pointed out the variations in nursing requirements for different programs. Providers explained that nursing guidelines for some programs (i.e. pass and pour group home) are the same as those in a therapeutic group home but the reimbursement is half the amount. Attendees referenced an earlier memo from Lou Ando regarding unfunded mandates which addressed the nursing issue by suggesting a workgroup to examine standards. Although that workgroup had never convened, providers recommended that creating that group would be a helpful first step to clarifying standards.
- Medication Administration - Attendees recommended increased flexibility around medication administration testing. Specifically providers would like the ability to test their own staff in the written test, rather than waiting for DCF to administer the test. This would allow staff to begin the full scope of work much sooner.
- Administrative Leave Time - Providers discussed streamlining the process for turnaround of staff on 136 for special investigations. Attendees recognized that the length of the current process poses challenges to the staff under investigation, the other staff in the agency and creates a financial burden for the provider.

- Providers discussed the process of continuing to identify unfunded mandates. Attendees would like to continue the discussion in future meetings and provide additional lists to DCF for their consideration.
- Providers agreed to discuss data reporting and other ideas gathered from membership of each association at the next Operations Workgroup meeting.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 12, 2010 from 1-3pm at CT Nonprofits.

Notes submitted by Alyssa Goduti, Vice President for Public Policy, CCPA