

INTEGRATED FAMILY SERVICES PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 13, 2010 Meeting

I. Welcome/Review Minutes/Introduction of Members

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

II. High Fidelity Wraparound Update

J.C.S. reported on a program that P.H. has been working on named "Lift Every Voice" in order to get families involved within Allentown, Lehigh County area, to speak about where their concerns are in regards to the services across the Department of Human Services. J.C.S. spoke at the meeting giving a brief overview of what services are available in DHS. She also distributed the DHS brochure in English and Spanish and brochures about IFSP and the County website.

Representatives from the Children's Bureau were also present to speak about the changes in the children's system. Discussion was held regarding where the change would like to be seen, where the parents are struggling to access appropriate services and what services they would like to see that are not available.

J.C.S. spoke about the plan submission and how the group wants to integrate services better in Lehigh County. J.C.S. asked what direction the group would like to go with the plan.

R.S., Pinebrook Family Services, gave an update on HiFi Wraparound Initiative. She also distributed a Status Report to members. R.S. mentioned that since the last meeting, the initiative has been moving along. There are currently 19 active families in the initiative. R.S. explained the four phases and how the planning process of HiFi Wraparound works. R.S. thanked everyone for their continued support.

J.C.S. reported on the evaluation piece which she will be overseeing and coordinating on a County level. The training is on the Wonder System. An evaluation will be completed for every youth with four individuals which will include a parent, facilitator of the team and one other team member. This will assure they are holding to the fidelity of the model and will be completed quarterly. At least 30 percent of the population being served will be evaluated. J.C.S. also explained the Team Observation Measure (TOMS) which will begin in September. J.C.S. will continue to update the group and will continue to discuss the TOMS.

J.C.S. informed the group that since the last meeting they have requested to expand the age range for referrals. Approval was received for ages 14-21. Initially, the request through the RFP was age 16-21. Referrals were being received with ages of 14 or 15 years olds and also working with youth that are already age 19 or 20.

J.C.S. mentioned that she re-confirmed that they are not allowed to open up to the Autism spectrum population. The Autism Bureau is developing its own process.

R.M. spoke about a family she has worked with in HiFi Wraparound. She reported that it is a very helpful service and immediate contact was made. Within a couple days, resources were being sought. R.M. mentioned there are many ways to help families.

III. ICSP Guidelines FY 2011/2012

J.C.S. reported on the submission of the Plan and reviewed areas of the guidelines which were used. The 2011/2012 Plan will be submitted in September.

Lehigh County is involved in the most initiatives across the Pennsylvania. In the upcoming year, Lehigh County would like to focus on and improve areas already being worked on and work on how it fits into the philosophy of the Department of Human Services.

J.C.S. mentioned they continue to receive a lot of positive feedback in regards to the website and all the information that is available. People are being encouraged to use it whenever possible.

Funding was requested for the Rubbing out Alcohol and Drugs Program (ROAD) which began in the Emmaus High School, East Penn School District. This is a prevention program working with youth in high school to prevent the use of alcohol and drugs. It was discussed at the Executive Committee to request funds to improve and expand the program and to also request training on prevention for other staff such as coaches, nurses, bus drivers etc. Also discussed was the idea of doing a pre-prom activity as an intervention, prevention for youths prior to the prom. D.G. is in the process of meeting with every school district and including information on their website with a link to Lehigh County website.

J.C.S. also reported that another area of consideration was the Government Center's I&R environment. A request was made to improve on the lobby making it a friendlier, but also safe, environment. J.C.S. mentioned the possibility of working with school districts as a youth volunteer project for community service hours for next year. T.G. offered to contact him if youth are needed for service hours for this project.

C.R. offered a suggestion of possibly giving gas money as an incentive to parents for attending meetings. J.C.S. will speak to K.A. on this idea.

P.T. recommended sending out an agenda to as many community organizations as possible specifically listing items that might need feedback from parents and someone may respond.

L.K. commented who to contact when there is a situation of a service failure with a child. Who gets contacted and who do you inform if a child gets discharged because the family did not attend? L.K. commented that we are trying to model after the Adult Team MISA and there is a definite point of entry with the correctional system. Who

would be the entry point if it is not a Juvenile Probation or OCYS case? . This should be discussed.

J.C.S. will submit the plan in September. Once submitted, J.C.S. will send it to everyone via email so it can be reviewed and it will also be posted to the website. The next year will be spent focusing on improving what has been started with the ROAD Program, the Truancy Program and Parent Outreach. J.C.S. thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

IV. Next Meeting Date

- **Friday, November 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m. CR 123**