



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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DATE: November 20, 2008

TO: Children's Mental Health Stakeholders

FROM: Bill Bouska, M.P.A.
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services Manager

RE: Focus Groups

Rita McMillen, LCSW

In response to an issue brief developed by the Children's System Advisory Committee (CSAC), Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) will be facilitating eight focus groups across the state. The purpose of these focus groups is to invite feedback about systemic and clinical challenges that have developed since the implementation of the Children's System Change Initiative (CSCI). The CSAC issue brief recommends that an assessment be conducted in order to identify areas of concern, lessons learned, and opportunities to make "midcourse corrections."

Families and stakeholders directly responsible for providing mental health services to children, youth, and families as well as other interested partners are invited to attend. The focus groups will be held in the following cities:

- Eugene, LaneCare, December 4, 2008
- Grants Pass, Jefferson Behavioral Health (JBH), December 5, 2008
- Hillsboro, Washington County, December 8, 2008
- Oregon City, Clackamas Mental Health Organization (MHO), December 9, 2008
- Salem, Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network (MVBCN), December 12, 2008
- Portland, Verity, December 16, 2008
- Corvallis, Accountable Behavioral Health Alliance (ABHA), January 14, 2009
- Boardman, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI), February 5, 2009

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Accompanying this memo is a list of topics for discussion at the focus groups. If you are interested in attending, contact the mental health organization (MHO) in your area. For those who wish to provide feedback but are unable to attend a group, comments can be sent via e-mail to Matthew Pearl at matthew.pearl@state.or.us.

Information collected at these focus groups will be provided to CSAC for that committee's consideration. It is the intention of AMH that these focus groups result in concrete near-term solutions to provide relief to the system and help inform long-term planning for system improvements. If you have any questions, call Matthew Pearl at 503-947-5524.

DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR AMH FOCUS GROUPS 2008/09

What AMH Can Change

1. In the near-term: decrease burdensome documentation requirements in administrative rules
2. In the near-term: use feedback to inform the integration of the administrative rules
3. In the near-term: revise AMH policies as needed
4. In the long-term: review and amend contract language to create administrative efficiencies
5. In the long-term: use feedback to inform the development of the Statewide Children's Wraparound Initiative
6. In the long-term: promote workforce development & training and future resource investment

What AMH Can't Change In the Near-Term

1. Increase rates
2. Add new money
3. Change federal regulations affecting Medicaid
4. Impose uniform ISA implementation details on local communities
5. Change another agency's practices to match ours

Discussion Topics:

Describe your experience with the Children's System Change Initiative. What have been the **strengths** and the **challenges** in the following areas:

1. Level of family & youth involvement
2. Access and referral
3. Transitions between levels of care
4. Administrative rules and contract issues
5. Service array availability
6. Ability for systems/agencies to collaborate
7. Provider stress & financial limitations
8. Workforce issues

Next steps: develop action items for families, AMH, MHOs, CMHPs & providers to address the identified challenges & build on the strengths