

FFTA North Carolina Chapter Meeting October 2, 2009

Phyllis Stephenson welcomed everyone and all attendees introduced themselves. Melissa Cole from National FFTA attended by phone conference.

Maureen Murray presented on Together Facing the Challenge and the initial outcomes report. Maureen covered the handout material and then took questions from attendees. This study is closed right now but the analysis is on-going.

More information has come in that will impact future implementation of the model. One model had someone call each parent daily to track behaviors. Supervisors were found to not have enough training them to deal with the kids in care. Future model will have increased staff training on how to work with the families and kids. Southern regional AHEC has a 2 day training in November in Fayetteville.

Melissa Cole spoke regarding the attendance of persons across the state and globe at the National FFTA conference in Atlanta in August. The next conference will be held August 1-4 in Nashville, TN. Therapeutic foster care is now recognized in a Senate bill that would allow Medicaid to pay for therapeutic foster care. There is new liability insurance for FFTA agency members. There will be a webinar next Wednesday at 3:00 on this. They are looking at adding a Listserv this fall. There are also many resources on the FFTA website. FFTA needs volunteers for various committees. Melissa's contact information is 1-800-414-3382 and mcole@fftta.org.

Tom Culver asked if National FFTA would be willing to sign a letter to NC government officials regarding the impact of budget cuts and expanding service demands and the impact of these on service delivery. Melissa said that if we send her the letter they will review and do what they can to support NC.

Karen McLeod called in and spoke about the unbundling of Mental Health services. Therapeutic foster care varies from state to state and NC CFSA is writing letters to encourage that services stay the same as they currently are. When enhanced services are added, the funding is taken from other services resulting in rate reductions for therapeutic foster care.

Impact of PCP writing is now being handled by other workers since the elimination of community support services. Therapeutic foster care is not listed as a service that can do the PCPs. This was acknowledged as an oversight and the bulletin coming out in October will include therapeutic foster care as able to do the PCPs. The state may require clinical interviews with agencies for therapeutic agency providers. It was asked if therapeutic agencies should have staff trained to do PCPs and look for psychiatrists to be on staff. Karen said that they have talked to the state about children needing the services when previous providers are no longer there. Karen said that some kids will fall through the cracks and agencies will have to make decisions not made before. Some agencies are already doing the PCPs. Tom asked what the role of the LME would be with the changes. Karen did not know how this will look. Karen also shared that local DSS agencies will be greatly impacted with the MH changes and will have to deal with many situations that will bring new demands. Mary Ellen Anderson from Wake County DSS shared that there is talk that county DSS agencies may be court ordered to provide services that there is no funding for. Karen can take consolidated statistics to the state from various agencies

on the impact changes will have on the care of youth needing care and the ability of agencies to meet those needs. . CFSA has a monthly meeting that can be attended by CFSA membership and more details are available. Karen was invited to attend the next meeting to share on some other topics that we did not get to today.

Phyllis suggests that Tom creates a letter that can circulate among the FFTA agencies to gain their support and signature to the letter.

How to reduce administrative costs and how to track the impact of service delivery will need to be addressed.

Our next meeting will be November 13th from 11:30-2:30.

Kristie Pieseher, PhD called in from University of Minnesota. She presented at the FFTA conference in Atlanta. FFTA approached the university about evidenced-based practice. She shared about 2 documents available regarding training and model of care. Evidence-Based Practice in Foster Parent Training and Support: Implications for Treatment Foster Care Providers is one document that reviews and compares different data.

FFTA has not evaluated training programs and does not endorse specific training. Websites to check out will be sent out to us. Pressley Ridge, PRIDE and People Places are training models targeted for therapeutic foster parents. Additionally, Together Facing the Challenge is a new model developed in NC that Maureen Murray has reported on. Additional training information can be gathered from the training research document available to FFTA members.

Topics for next meeting: CS replacement services, letter from FFTA, Karen McLeod state changes and impact of TFC and PCPs, state legislative update, Laura Boyd and national updates, impact of rate changes, primary indicators, software for tracking families and kids served. ECHO and Caliedecare, Defran are systems available. It was suggested that we have more time to have agency interaction.

Next time we will ask that everyone can write down lunch order to eliminate conversation and time frame.

Kathy Dobbs spoke about the CFSA workshops coming up. Handouts were given out regarding these conferences.

Jean Kenefick shared how great the FFTA conference was in Atlanta and that there are workshops available for foster parents, staff, Sr. leadership and anyone providing services.

Minutes submitted by,
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