

Interagency Collaboration Committee

July 18, 2006 Meeting

Meeting Notes

Who was there?

Paula Lumb, Sweetser; Stephanie Crystal Wolfstone-Francis, Independent Advocate; Jay Yoe, DHHS; Brenda Bennett, Learning Disabilities Association of Maine; Karen White, DHHS; Roxy Hennings, Dept. of Corrections; Amy Mattson, Androscoggin Head Start; Bart Beattie, Providence; Cindy Ramsdell, Richardson Hollow; Brianne Masselli, TISOC Youth Coordinator; Louise Hamilton, International Adoption Services; Kathy Alley, DHHS; David and Tammy Noyes, parents; Doug Patrick, DHHS, committee Chair; Ray Cook, TISOC.

What did we do?

Resource lists provided by participants were on display throughout the meeting. These included 2 binders provided by Cindy Ramsdell that described the activities of the Central Maine Inclusive Schools group; the Spring 2002 Community Resource Guide compiled by Seniors Plus, funded by Empower Lewiston and supplied to us by Sandie Worthington; the Guide to Special Education in Maine from Dept. of Ed.; and the online resource list from AbilityMaine (www.abilitymaine.org).

Stephanie spoke for the availability of independent advocates for children, youth and their parents and for the development of an organization of independent advocates, with independent funding. LDA Maine and the Disability Rights Center both provide this kind of advocacy but the needs are greater than their resources. The DRC should be invited to participate in our committee.

Doug facilitated introductions and reviewed the work of our June 29 meeting.

Cindy described the Inclusive Schools resource lists and told us that group now plans to expand its work to statewide, with training for schools in Piscataquis County and the Mid-Coast area in October, 2006, in Augusta in March, 2007, and in Androscoggin County in April, 2007. She will continue to be our contact and keep us informed.

Stephanie described a report compiled by the Muskie Institute, from focus groups, reporting on what is and is not working in mental health services and gave us the name of a person to contact to get the report. Ray will follow up. Brenda reported that LDA also has a needs assessment that she can share with us.

It was suggested that the Interagency Collaboration committee (that's us) should sponsor meetings that would enable parents, educators and providers to talk to each other.

Jay Yoe talked about developing questions to use in a needs assessment and recommended that we contact other Systems of Care to take advantage of all the work they have already done. Other suggestions included: conducting a series of focus groups; a “warm line” for youth (like Amistad); surveying provider agencies; surveying on the web; announcing our survey publicly so people can volunteer their responses by phone or on the web; asking about barriers to care and what people think the system should look like. Brianne described the questions used in the Parent and Youth focus groups we have already conducted.

Jay suggested we form a small work group to study the work of the focus groups and any other available needs assessments, choose questions from them that we would like to use, and develop a plan to act on these suggestions. Here is a list of the participants who volunteered to join that work group: Paula Lumb, Stephanie Crystal, Amy Mattson, Bart Beattie, Kathy Alley, Brianne Masselli, Brenda Bennett. Doug Patrick, Kathy Tisdale and Ray Cook will also participate. Ray will poll the volunteers for meeting days/times that will allow work to be started before the Committee’s next meeting.

There was some discussion about improving access to services and whether our committee should be promoting a “single point of access” approach or a “no wrong door” approach. “Single point of access” ideally, allows someone seeking services to complete just one application process to then get access to all available services and supports. “No wrong door” ideally, promotes access to all available services and supports from any point of entry. As we find out what children, youth and families want and need, we can work out our recommendation.

Finally, we planned our next two meeting dates and times: our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**. We will meet again on **Monday, September 18, same time**. Locations will be announced.