

DCFS Child Welfare Mental Health Services (CWMHS) Division Update

All Managers – January 3, 2012

Panel Retreat

- A successful & well-attended Panel Retreat occurred on 12/7/11 & 12/8/11 to address the departments' planned response to the Panel's recommendations for training & coaching, development of Treatment Foster Care (TFC) beds, availability of home-based mental health services, Medical Hubs, & children in group care settings.
- Next Panel Retreat set for 3/7/12 & 3/8/12 – Mark your calendars!

Board – Related

- On 10/18/11, after a series of Katie A. presentations, the Board approved LA County's Exit Conditions.
- In the last two months, the reports were prepared and submitted to the Board: two monthly Board memos on the mental health screening process, the Katie A. Semi-Annual Board Report, the Quarterly Katie A. Progress Report to the Board, & a jointly developed DMH/CEO/DCFS memo outlining actions to address a number of Katie A. matters discussed with Supervisor Molina.

Exit Conditions

- On 12/1/11, the Federal Court approved & adopted LA County's Exit Conditions, providing concrete programmatic & statistical markers or targets by which exit from the lawsuit can be measured.

State Case

- On 12/1/11, the Federal Court approved the State Settlement Agreement. The State Negotiations Team has six months, starting 12/1/11, to submit a fully developed implementation plan.
- Adrienne Olson & Greg Lecklitner are members of the State Team.

DMH Field Response Operations (FRO) Expedited Response Pilot (ERP)

- Implementation planning was completed to officially implement the DCFS/DMH Field Response Operations Expedited Response Pilot (FRO ERP) on 1/1/12, including hiring, development of DCFS policy & procedures, DMH practice guidelines, training, & tracking system. A formal process has been established to provide for the timely notification, identification, & response to DCFS children/youth experiencing acute &/or urgent mental health needs to ensure better individualized safety plans for children. This protocol ensures communication between FRO & DCFS when the FRO team responds in person to a child, but does not hospitalize the child. All efforts will be tracked & evaluated for efficacy & improved outcomes for children.

Coordinated Services Action Team (CSAT)/Referral Tracking System (RTS)

- Goal: 100% of children in newly open & existing DCFS cases will receive a mental health screening, & for those screening positive, referral & service linkage within required timeframes.
- Countywide cumulative averages from CSAT implementation in each office to 10/31/11:
 - 97.84 % of children screened for mental health needs;
 - 97.55 % of children referred to mental health services;
 - 97.25 % of children began receiving mental health service activities;
 - Completion of the Mental Health Screening Tool for routine cases reduced from 22 days prior to CSAT redesign to 10 days on average from case opening or the case plan due date; &
 - Number of days from case plan opening or case plan due date to start of mental health service activities reduced from 33 days prior to CSAT redesign to 18 days on average.

Multidisciplinary Assessment Treatment (MAT) program

- Goal: 100% newly detained, MAT-eligible children to be referred for a MAT assessment.
- Oct 2011: 96% newly detained, MAT-eligible children referred for a MAT assessment.

Resource Management Process (RMP)

- In December 2011, the DCFS Interim Director distributed a memo to staff mandating stricter controls & compliance with the RMP policy for placement of children in group homes.

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- Goal: 100% of children entering, replaced, or exiting a Group Home (GH) to have a RMP.
- October 2011: 57% GH entries, 63% GH replacements, & 51% GH exits.

Wraparound

- Goal: Fill 1400 Tier I slots & 2,800 Tier II slots (total of 4,200) by FY 2013-2014.
- Dec 9, 2011: 1,122 Tier I & 1,416 Tier II slots currently filled.

Treatment Foster Care (TFC)

- Goal: 300 certified beds & 300 children placed.
- Nov 30, 2011: 101 certified homes & 60 children placed.

Core Practice Model/Training/Coaching

- In November 2011, a letter from the three Directors of DCFS, DMH & Probation, with an overview document attached, was sent out to all staff & providers articulating a joint commitment to the CPM.
- New Core Practice Model website developed & located on the left-hand side of LA Kids.
- Compton Coaching Pilot's kick-off date is set for 2/14/12. In-depth coaching will begin with 2 ER & 2 CS units & roll-out to rest of the office from there. External coaches will be in Compton at least (3) three days per week to model effective engagement & teaming approaches with staff & families to help decipher children's' underlying needs & develop interventions that will address those needs. Proposed activities will include coaches accompanying supervisors in the field for initial home calls; shadowing individual supervisors as they conduct group case conferencing with their units; participating in TDMs & other team meetings to ensure that a strengths/needs approach (consistent with ESBT & QSR) is being utilized; discussing & identifying initial barriers to authentic teaming (outside of Wraparound teams) so that teaming becomes part of the standard practice for every case.
- Beyond implementation of the CPM for one office, another primary goal of the pilot is to create a good prototype & develop the departments' capacity to rollout coaching countywide. The pilot will build the program & skills with external lead coaches who will in turn build the program & skills of internal lead coaches & supervisors to the Compton office. In time, internal lead coaches & supervisors in Compton will begin to function & coach their staff independently & the external coaches will move on to other offices. This strategy will be repeated until all supervisors in child welfare & mental health are capable of coaching their staff on the practice model.
- DCFS Training Manager Robert Wiltse and DMH Program Head Anabel Rodriguez have been identified as the leads for our Coaching program & will be on site in Compton to provide overall logistical coordination & troubleshooting. A Coaching Guide (currently being finalized) & weekly oversight meetings will be held with coaches.
- 18 external coaches from DCFS (7), DMH (2), Cal State Long Beach (1), & the Los Angeles Training Consortium (8) have been identified & are being prepared through attendance to QSR Reviewer training; acting as shadow reviewers; attending Enhanced Skill-based Training for SCSWs; attending an Intensive Child Welfare Coaching Seminar in Compton; continued participation in Coaching Support Groups currently in place in all DCFS offices; traveling to Utah for modeling; & participating in other special coaching/modeling events currently under development.
- Proposal to hire 16 additional temporary CSWs for Compton currently being developed to ensure caseloads are low enough for staff to have the time to learn & apply new skills.

Quality Service Review (QSR)

- Next Continuing Services QSR is set for the SFV office to occur on 1/17/12-1/27/12. Mark your calendars!
- A very successful ER QSR Design Team met & completed the initial design of LA County's QSR for the Child Protection Hotline & Emergency Response.
- New Quality Improvement website developed & located on the left-hand side of LA Kids.

For additional information, please visit the internal Katie A. Website on LA Kids or the external site at www.lacdcfs.org/aboutus/index.html