

**BAYFIELD COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Courthouse Conference Room B
March 15, 2005, 5:15 p.m-7:40 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Janelle Armbruster, Susan Kinzie, and Nancy and Dale Johnson.

Committee Members Absent: Dave Kedrowski, Libby Rolain, Vicki Redenbaugh and Maxine Babineau.

Staff Present: Jan Karlen, Elizabeth Skulan, Deb Rusch, and Nina Bucher.

County Funding of Voluntary Inpatient Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse (AODA) and Mental Health (MH) Treatment: Jan gave the background on the issue stating that currently these voluntary inpatient services were not being paid by the County, yet there is no written policy. For comparison, Jan handed out the written policy on funding voluntary detoxification that the Committee had help create a few years ago. Jan pointed out that the voluntary detoxification policy states that funding approval may be recommended if the client is pregnant, has not been funded for the service in the previous 12 months, or if the client is participating in an ongoing treatment plan and their provider approves it. Deb and Jan explained that the section needs to develop a similar policy for voluntary inpatient AODA/MH treatment funding.

Bayfield County pays for voluntary outpatient AODA/MH services, provided the client is financially eligible. Deb is the "gatekeeper" for these funding requests.

Group discussion followed as to whether to begin a funding program for these costly inpatient services (MMC-AODA-\$475/day, MH-\$748/day). The discussion is set to continue at the next meeting in June after other Wisconsin Counties policies are studied and Committee Members have time to assess where the funding would come from.

National Governor's Association: Jan explained that BCDHS has been selected, based on a submitted innovative proposal, to receive \$45,000 in special funding from the State during January 2005 through June 2006 to strengthen family/school relationships to better deliver services to children and families. Copies of the original State announcement and submitted proposal were handed out. The awarded money will be used to hire a case manager who will spend ten hours a week at each of three participating schools (Bayfield, Washburn, and South Shore). The case manager will identify mental health, employment, and other issues affecting children and their families, and then troubleshoot these problems.

Strategic Planning: Jan informed the Committee that Human Services Section Managers, a representative from each section, County Board Members, and County Administration, would make up the group meeting April 11-12, 2005 to brainstorm on the priorities of The Bayfield County Human Services Department. Jan invited any input and members can call her if they think of something. The Section Program Listing sheet was handed out and Family Service programs were briefly described. A copy of the 2005 BCDHS budget is enclosed. Jan invited Committee Members to attend the public hearing for the 2006 BCDHS budget. The date of the public hearing will be passed along when it is set.

Program Enhancement Plan (PEP): Jan explained that all states failed federal expectations during a survey of current child welfare services, resulting in additional funding received and earmarked to enhance these programs. Bayfield County Family Services plans to use the funds to help create new groups to promote family support, preservation, and youth development such as a teen/parent conflict resolution group or an aggressive teen group.

Suicide Prevention Grant: Jan reported that based on youth suicide statistics, the MHA (Mental Health Association) based in Milwaukee has identified Bayfield County as high-risk. Maila Hedin, who coordinates Bayfield County's Coordinated Services Team Project, applied for and received the grant on behalf of the schools. The grant money will be used to screen children in 7th-12th grades in the three participating school districts (Bayfield, Washburn, and South Shore). Drummond school chose not to participate at this time. A mental health therapist will be on hand during the screening that focuses on early suicide intervention. Additionally, a Gunlock Program through the Sheriff's Department would provide locks for firearms at no charge to help restrict access to weapons.

Next Meeting

The next FS Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st, 2005 at 5:15pm. The meeting will include a tour of the CARE room, Bayfield County's child abuse interview room.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,

Nina K. Bucher
Clerk III