

Hennepin County Children's Mental Health Collaborative (CMHC)

Governance Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 2:30 – 4:00pm

Mission Statement

The CMHC provides a forum for a diverse and representative group of system stakeholders to influence the development and ongoing operation of an accessible and effective children's mental health service system within Hennepin County. The CMHC promotes innovative service development and continuous quality improvement in the children's mental health system by embracing the system of care principles and available research on children's mental health services.

Voting Governance Committee Members (Quorum 12): Pat Dale, Liz Gronert, Krista Phillips, Cindy Slowiak, Tonya Allen, Meredith Martinez, Liz Franklin, Aric Jensen, Nita Kumar, Cathy Moen (alternate for Karen Malka), Jody Nelson, Adesola (Jaiyesimi) Oni, Maureen Seiwert, , Angela Watts

CMHC Coordination Team: Etonde Awaah, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, Cheryl Holm-Hanson, Margaret Sullivan

Guests: Rachel Harris, Anna VonReuden

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

Jody motioned to approve November 2020 minutes; Cindy seconds. No corrections/changes. All in favor, no opposition. Minutes accepted.

Krista moved to approve December 2020 agenda; Liz G. seconded. All in favor, no opposition. Agenda adopted.

CMHC Co-Chair Elections

Liz G. didn't receive any nominations or self-nominations for Co-Chair seats prior to nominations.

Liz opened up the chair for nominations for the Co-Chair positions:

- Jody nominated Pat Dale for the Co-Chair position.
- Cindy moved to close nominations; Krista seconded. All in favor of closing nominations, Pat abstained. Nominations closed.
- Pat accepted nomination – he's happy & willing to do it. If other people would like him to do it, he will.
- Liz says one candidate means we can vote with unanimous consent.
 - All in favor, Pat abstained. **So moved – Pat re-elected as CMHC Co-Chair for the next two years. Thanks & congrats to Pat.**

2021 Governance Committee Meeting Dates

Governance Committee finalized 2021 meeting schedule between the following options:

Third Wednesday of every month from:

2:30-4 PM

3-4:30 PM

3:30-5 PM

Liz: As we were looking at setting the group up for next year, some of what we talked about was our meeting times & wanting to set ourselves up for better engagement from parents & youth. Recommending we keep our meeting date on the third Wednesdays of the month, but want Committee to consider the merits of various times.

Margaret: Not asking to address any parents' specific schedule, but in general what she heard was that 2:30 was too early. 3 or 3:30 PM is better. Once we get back to in person learning, a later time may be an issue for those who have to pick up children. Wants to be respectful of the fact that this 2:30p time might work better for school folks. Continuing to be flexible and allowing remote participation will increase the accessibility of meetings. If she had to vote for PCLG, it would be the "not 2:30 PM time," but she's open to what others have to say.

Cindy liked the idea committing to staying virtual even when the risk of COVID-19 has been mitigated as it's been helpful for commute times, etc.

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- Jody: Wondering if a once-a-year meeting in-person would be good? (The rest can be virtual.) Or some kind of hybrid set up? Also interested in a bigger conversation about involving youth with our Collaborative. Have we thought about a youth group?
- Liz G.: Later we'll talk about planning for 2021 – addressing how to make our youth involvement meaningful, which youth to involve, etc.

Liz G.: Asked how members would feel about a 3:30-5 PM timeframe.

- Adesola: If it works to allow families to participate, it works for her, especially if we'll be meeting remotely.
- Maureen: Agrees with Adesola. She has an ongoing conflict at our current meeting time, but if we're remote, 3:30-5 PM should be OK.
- Nita: Agrees with that – there's the possibility of more flexibility with school staff, parents, students, etc. Really appreciates an opportunity to join remotely.
- Liz G.: She would love to see people in person for some scheduled time, but the remote participation would be really great. Asked Cathy to share more.
- Cathy: So 3:30 PM would be best; it's better than 2:30 PM, at least. Thinks it's generally better, but also depends on age of child.
- Liz G.: Asked if there's a case to be made for the other times? (Nobody offered anything.)
- Liz G.: Thanked the rest of Governance Committee for being willing to make this time shift that might be more helpful for parents. There's no time that will fit everyone's schedules. If this group votes to move their meetings to 3:30 PM, to her that's a really nice statement being made that Committee wants to hear from parents/youth.
- Margaret: This is something they've been advocating for at least eight years. She's grateful for flexibility on that front.
- Liz: And being able to meet via Zoom really helps.

Liz G.: Asked for a motion for 2021 meeting dates to be third Wednesday from 3:30-5 PM. Pat moved; Adesola seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion passes.

Update from NAMI/CMHC Fiscal Relationship

Laura:

- *Originally NAMI reached out us to consider a fiscal sponsorship relationship or the CMHC having a tax ID and gave an initial timeline of January 2021. Received updated information that NAMI would give us until the end of June.*
- *NAMI has been operating as our fiscal agent. Difference between fiscal agent vs. host is whether or not they're lending their 501c3 status to the Collaborative (agent = yes).*
- *Executive Committee thought it would be useful to spend some resources this calendar year to obtain a retainer for some legal consultation on best options for moving forward with this fiscal relationship. Proposing a \$5000 flat fee.*
- *Regardless of whether the legal consultation request is approved, the consequences of the request from NAMI will require us to go back and amend our contract with NAMI via Hennepin County.*

Rachel: asked Laura to elaborate the request from NAMI and why it was forwarded at this time

- *Laura: NAMI has a new audit company. They made the recommendation different from their previous auditor.*
- *Rachel: How commonplace is it for Collaboratives to become 501c3s?*
 - *Laura: Doesn't know how common it is. Does know that some are but believes more have more of a fiscal host/sponsorship relationship with another organization. What we're asking this attorney to do is some of that fact finding re: what it takes to become a 501c3 and also offer some advice on what we should do.*
- *Pat: Sue said they've been doing this since 2007 and it's never been brought up before. This could be a structural question that might have different recommendations from a different auditor.*
- *Cindy: Have we ever in the past had a formal agreement with NAMI, e.g. MOU?*
 - *Pat: Headway was the fiscal agent for the South Team way back...all they had was a contract with the Collaborative. So that would be his guess with what NAMI had. It's possible some of this got written into the contract.*

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- *Pat: Part of the issue NAMI's auditor raised was 'who controls the money?' Clarifying this fiscal role will help clarify that.*
- *Laura: This will impact our structure. NAMI has been operating as a fiscal agent, or in other words, as our checkbook and doing the accounting for us. Their administrative fees have been extremely low. There would be additional costs to NAMI to take us on as a fiscal sponsor – the budget line we have allocated to them would need to be increased. It's currently \$4800 for the year; most organizations that take on fiscal agency work charge between 7-12%.*
- *Cindy: We've really only been dealing with one funding stream, which is LCTS dollars. We've had discussions as our group that we'd want to pursue grants to support the work of Collaborative. Her hope is that we could also have that be considered by this legal consultant.*
 - *Laura: We'll definitely bring that forward.*
- *Liz G.: NAMI has not given a clear indication that they have the capacity to move into fiscal sponsorship role. We have a lot of factors that don't have enough clarity to feel like we know our options moving forward, which is why we're considering seeking legal support.*
- *Laura: We currently have \$7979 in general support resources, so we have enough to cover the cost.*
- ***Cindy motioned to approve retaining the attorney for up to 5K, Anna seconded. No further conversations. All approved, no abstentions.***
- *Pat: Other request is that the Executive Committee continues to run point on this matter and update the Governance Committee along the way – for the purposes of expediting the process. No objections. Will continue as is.*

Committee/Coordinator Updates

- *Etonde: Introduced Meredith Martinez & Tonya Allen to ensure everyone know who they represented (HC Public Health & District 287, respectively). Also acknowledged Rachel Harris & Anna VonReuden as consistent participants.*
 - *Liz: Asked for an updated roster for 2021. – Etonde said she would work on it for the new year.*
- *Read updates from Cheryl, Mark and Margaret*
 - *Cheryl: Grateful to those on her Dashboard team. Have really good information gathered so far and a little more refinement & data gathering left to do. Will have something to review for 202 and also have a plan for trying to make it useful throughout the year. We have a slightly modified version of the workgroup that's agreed to meet in 2021. Scope of group will be expanding as well – both the Dashboard and other ways to promote data-driven decision making in SoC work.*
 - *Rachel: Read through the summary notes and she appreciated the update & work being done behind the scenes. Eager to learn more when the Dashboard is live.*
 - *Margaret: On Saturday, PCLG will be having their elections. They are doing some reshuffling – different parents will be serving as representatives for different committees. Cathy M. will be SBMH representative. Regarding the NAMI presentation – there was a lot of info, which has pushed them to get their creative juices going. Liz G. started working on 30-minute mini-sessions to share information with parents. PCLG is also excited about potentially meeting in person later in the year. They have started thinking about service mapping; one thing she's learned so far is how important recreation activities are.*
 - *Liz G: She's supporting the folks doing the mini-sessions, actually. A different parent is the lead on that work. She also reached out to Krista about PCLG involvement with FSCs. COVID-19 helped them realize the need to at Hennepin County (geographic) as a whole. Allowing different PCLG members to build family/parent involvement and to connect with services that are out there to be more knowledgeable about the needs that support mental health.*
 - *Jody:*
 - *Governor's announcement: After January 18th, elementary schools will be allowed to conduct full day programming. One of the things that's missing about schools reopening is that they don't address staffing. While elementary kids may not be super-spreaders, you need adults in the building to run schools.*
 - *Continuing to meet as a committee. Mark has been asking providers to share what they've been doing, bright spots, innovations, challenges, etc. It has felt very collaborative. We're chugging*
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along – IKEA money, money from CMHC, etc. – it’s a bit of a patchwork that’s enabling to get us through this year. Hopefully, school-based mental health providers will go into 2021-2022 school year as the model that they truly are.

- Continuing to work on accessing kids since teachers don’t have access to kids in the same way as they did pre-COVID. Referrals still aren’t matching the need that we’re hearing anecdotally. Everyone is doing what they can – putting out training videos, including tools with meal kits, etc.
- Cindy: With the Governor’s announcement, does it mean returning in person is an option and that each school district can make the individual choice?
 - Pat: Yes. He did reference the absolute need to keep the adults in schools healthy. There needs to be conversations about statutory requirements for staff/student ratios.
 - Cindy: Wondering where teachers/education staff fit into rollout of the vaccine.
 - Krista: New guidance says required testing every other week along with some other safety measures.
 - Maureen: Wondering whether the guidance changed about the expectations with teachers returning to schools. Greatest challenge might be to get enough staff in the building to have even limited coverage. That has been the case for MPS’ essential childcare. May be a contract challenge.
- Liz F.: If you know of families (parents AND kids) that may want ideas for how to fine tune different aspects of distance learning, or broader information about coping ideas, we have three series of English and Spanish videos on the CLUES YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLN3F83WP30wh-wHhABwHA/videos>
- Pat: Asked Adesola where kids in placement where are they in the vaccination protocol.
 - Adesola: Not sure. Lots of kids in restricted placements. Don’t have the details.
 - Meredith: Hennepin County Public Health is still developing our vaccination plan as part of our COVID response efforts. There is a lot that is still unknown.
 - Liz G.: I agree with all that is being said. I also am hearing from many parents about the great distress for their older kids. Anxiety, depression, school failure is through the roof for those big kids, too. There are no easy answers.
- Liz shared Executive Committee discussion related to planning our SoC work for 2021:
 - Executive Committee has committed additional time beyond our normal meetings to focus on Collaborative & SoC work. Executive Committee is looking at planning for 2021. The idea is to work through that and bring the ideas to Governance Committee in January.

Adjourn

Pat: Research seems to show that individual people that have relationships with folks with SPMI about vaccinations re: problem solving & decision making related to getting the vaccine, that it has a proven response. Link:

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2774106?guestAccessKey=8ae57745-35f0-49fe-b6db-584ab800cd73&utm_source=silverchair&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_alert-jamapsychiatry&utm_content=olf&utm_term=121520

- Cindy: In Sunday’s paper, there was an article about how BIPOC folks may be more reluctant to take the vaccine. Appreciate Pat’s point about not taking a parental tone & really try to understand where people are coming from in terms of their reservations.

Laura: If folks are interested in following legislative issues related to mental health, she’s inclined to do so in our newsletter. Has information she can share, but wants to know the best way to get information out to people.

- Cindy: Some people have been sensitive about Collaborative engaging in activity that seems like lobbying. However the information gets posted, asks that we make sure it doesn’t come across as specific advocacy.

Krista motioned to adjourn; Pat seconded. Liz G. closed the meeting!

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