

Our Community Our Kids
Monthly Provider Meeting
ACH Child & Family Services - Belltower Chapel
Meeting Summary

March 17, 2015

Attendance 53 attendees representing 23 agencies
Next Meeting April 21st, 2015 1:30 – 3pm
ACH Child & Family Services – Belltower Chapel

1. **Welcome** - Dr. Gary Buff, President and COO, OC-OK
2. **First Quarter Contract Outcomes** – Gary Buff, Sean Allen
 - Dr. Buff spoke briefly about the SSCC Performance Based Outcomes:
 - By and large, the expectation was to ‘do better’ than DFPS has historically done in these measures.
 - Our success is measured by: better outcomes for kids.
 - OCOK met or exceeded each of these outcomes in the first quarter. Dr. Buff reviewed the Outcomes Report for 1st Quarter.
 - Dr. Sean Allen discussed “Stability for In-Care Population” and “Stability for Entering Care Population” as metrics that do not have outcomes yet as they are measured over a two year period.
 - Most of these outcomes are from the PMET reports that providers have submitted.
 - There was a calculation error in the outcome for % of children/youth who participated in discussions about their placement options. This should not be 97%.
 - These outcomes have been shared broadly with stakeholders and the State.
 - Q& A:
 - Did we take into consideration that some judges do not want our kids to participate in court hearings? A: No. There is no baseline.
 - Do we keep track of how many attend? A: All we are doing is trying to identify which judges do not want the kids in court. Kris Naylor: We (OCOK) are not putting this on the providers, it is something we need to look at as the SSCC.
 - KN: Providers should be very proud of these numbers. You all are working very hard to make these outcomes happen.
 - What do you attribute the percentages for the PAL? A: These are for new referrals only...which are only about 3 kids. Legacy kids not included in these numbers.
3. **ACH Event Information** – Trisha Dunbar, Director of Development – ACH Child and Family Services
 - Lend-a-Hand: April 7th at the Fort Worth Omni. A special CEU opportunity will be presented prior to the main event from 9am to 11am. Derek Clark, guest speaker will be presenting the CEU special presentation for CEU credit. Luncheon and keynote speech by Derek Clark begins at 11:30. Tickets available

on the ACH website or contact tdunbar@ACHservices.org or amorales@ACHservices.org

- ACH 100 Year Celebration: October 4th at Sundance Square in Fort Worth. Celebrating 100 years of protecting children and preserving families, as well as the community partners who have supported ACH throughout the years. More information to come.

4. QPI Report and Training Event – Dr. Linda Garcia

- Next Thursday, QPI Meeting featuring David Brown from 9am to 11am – Belltower Chapel
- April 10 – 11, “Empower to Connect” training opportunity.

5. **Advocacy Report** – Dr. Linda Garcia

- Dr. Carson and Dr. Garcia have made several trips to Austin to meet with legislators regarding advocacy for re-design.
- Main focus of our advocacy is: 1) continue the re-design model, and 2) fully fund it.
- Dr. Buff requests that you please send letters of support to:
Senator Jane Nelson
PO Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
(For any questions about this, please reach out to Dr. Garcia at: lgarcia@oc-ok.org or Lindsey Stewart, Community Relations Coordinator at lstewart@oc-ok.org.)
- We have a letter going out from Mayor Betsy Price of Fort Worth which will also be signed by 20 other mayors in support of re-design. “It’s really working”
- Governor Jeb Bush wrote an editorial in the Miami Herald about “outcomes for children’ in foster care re-design, and the long term impact. In Florida, cost went down over time, positive outcomes increased.
- Your support is important and we hope you will voice this.

6. **Update on Pending Items**– Kris Naylor, Sr. Director of Care Management - OCOK

- We will be reviewing the first year protocols with the State. There have been informal meetings, first official meeting with be next week between regional folks and OCOK re: Service Planning, Frequency of Service Plans, and Who is at Placement?
- If you have concerns that you have not sent to us, you still have time to do that.
- Daycare: we know this is a sticking point for all of us. We have all been on a mission to make that better. Dr. Garcia has proposed a good plan that is being presented to State to help streamline the process. We are on a path to a resolution. This is something that we can bring as a region to the State.
- Today is last meeting with providers to discuss RFI’s that have been submitted regarding Therapeutic Foster Care for Teens and Rural Recruitment for Foster Care (Parker, Palo Pinto).
- There were about 25 attendees here this morning to discuss the *Common Application* with Sarah Webster, consultant with DFPS. Great meeting, with a lot of feedback. We do not know what will come out of it, but we will follow up with you on these recommendations.

7. Phase II Discussion – Dr. Buff

- Background: CPS is responsible for providing purchased services for families; DFPS is responsible for developing a plan and making sure the families get what they need. In Phase II, OCOK will be taking over this responsibility. This has not been done before. II-9 contract was ended before getting to Phase II.
- We would like your input on training you are doing related to bio parents. Please send this to Kris Naylor: knaylor@oc-ok.org
- Dr. Buff gave an assignment to the tables for discussion. “What you see in your work that will inform us as we prepare for Phase II.” In our contract, the earliest date this could happen would be July 1, but most likely not until Sept – Dec of 2015.

Question 1: If you were an advocate for biological parents in a re-integration effort, what would you recommend OCOK do more of?

Responses:

- More access to plan of service
- Training to eliminate fear of bio parents; for program staff
- Having an advocate or someone designated to work with the bio parents to help them navigate
- Work with community resources to help host visit sites
- Transportation
- More flexibility with the parent’s schedules. Has to be individualized, and work around parents work schedules
- Support group for bio families
- Finding quality resources in the community, not just those who “we have always sent them there”
- Important to get kids connected in their home community with services
- Develop a fund to help families with specific support needs, for temporary relief in emergency situations

Question 2: If you were an advocate for biological parents in a re-integration effort, what barriers would you like to see us remove?

Responses:

- Transportation
- Better training for foster parents
- Properly managing visitation, making sure someone is supervising properly
- Language barriers
- Strength based, focus the way we address the families
- Case loads
- Use statistics to educate foster families as to what they are really like to focus on positives
- Risk assessment done on the CPS end, so the background checks don’t become the stumbling block
- Hire spokespeople who have lived the experience
- money

Question 3: What would you see as the most effective services to provide to biological parents that will impact their ability to care for their children in the future?

Responses:

- Training
- Healing trauma for bio parents not just short term counseling; parenting classes more focused on trauma informed
- Developing support for the families: churches, etc.
- Aftercare program using 'wraparound fidelity' model. Support ongoing maintenance. Providing ancillary services such as job skills, job placement, GED's

8. Closing – Dr. Buff