

Provider Team Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2009
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
Northfield Community Resource Center

Present at the meeting: Kathy Anderson, Sarah Antonson, Gary Braun, Susie Fillipi, Natalie Ginter, Chuck Johnson, Judi Malecha, Yvette Marthaler, Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Zach Pruitt, Kathy Sandberg Sarah Shippy, Sandy Wetzel, Andy Yurek

Updates:

- Natalie mentioned that Public Health has two grants pending. One (Clearway Minnesota) is in partnership with other counties and related to tobacco prevention efforts; it focuses on environmental strategies, such as policy efforts. The second grant possibility (the Statewide Health Improvement Plan) is specifically for Rice County and focuses on systems change to reduce chronic diseases; decreasing tobacco use is one of the aims of the plan and Rice County's grant would include working with employers to support employee wellness activities. Funding for the grants would start July 1.

Questions / Comments from the North Memorial presentation at the last Provider Team meeting
As a follow-up to the meeting, Northfield Hospital has been looking at some of the tools that were shared to see if anything would be a fit for the emergency room or other parts of the hospital. Andy reported that they are looking at it for use with a trauma event. More study will need to be done.

Buprenorphine

The Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic at Northfield Hospital seems to be going well. All agreed that the work of Dr. Reznikoff and Dr. Matson has been huge in terms of heading off relapses. Yvette mentioned that it would be nice to have someone in Faribault who is trained in this area. Andy reported that Dr. Reznikoff will be doing a physician education on Buprenorphine in the Northfield Hospital on July 14.

Physician Education

Shelly Cole from Family Focus will be speaking to physicians next week about dual diagnosis patients. In April, Dr. Hokanson did a presentation to District One staff about opiates, cocaine and methamphetamine.

Through the Rural Hospital Flex Grant that Northfield Hospital received, Dr. Reznikoff is planning to continue doing education for physicians; a focus group of physicians will meet to discuss the best way to administer this education in Northfield. In Faribault, Kathy Anderson mentioned that continuing education events might be a way to offer that information to physicians from District One.

Halfway House

Susie updated the group about the efforts to establish a halfway house in Northfield, explaining the difference between a sober house and a halfway house. Sarah Antonson has been working to develop the needs statement, which is required in order to get licensed. It will be a women's program, which would provide female beds in the county and free up male beds at the Owatonna program. Sarah A. gathered information from places that serve clients with substance abuse issues in order to help move the process along (See notes from her information-gathering efforts.).

Susie will be meeting with Mark Shaw, the director of Rice County Social Services. It is anticipated that this issue would go to the Rice County Board by July. The application then goes to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for licensing. It was suggested that we check with Mark to see if he would like some other leaders to go with him to the County Board in support of this effort (such as the Northfield Police Chief, the Rice County Sheriff or the director of Rice County Public Health).

Youth 12-Step Program

The group has been suspended for now due to very low attendance, but the group's organizers are trying to find other ways to provide this kind of support. Susie reported that the Alanon Club in Owatonna started an NA meeting in their facility. Yvette mentioned that the CMA group in Faribault has a more open approach. It was suggested to contact the District and see if recovering folks in the area could help with being ongoing sponsors or mentors for a program like this. It was suggested to invite a representative from the District to the next meeting. Yvette offered to look into both of these items.

Parent Support Group

There was a small group last time and a large group the time before. On average, 10-12 parents attend each session. The group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Omada.

Grief Support Group - FROGS

Sandy spoke with the Grief Support Network to get the group she is organizing (FROGS) included in their publications. FROGS is a support group for friends and family who are dealing with an overwhelming or sudden loss of a loved one, particularly a death resulting from substance abuse. The group meets the 3rd Monday of the month from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Main Street Moravian Church in Northfield (713 Division Street). Sandy is working to increase publicity for the group.

Adolescent Outpatient Treatment Group

Sarah Shippy reported that there are several new young people coming in and so this primary treatment group will continue over the summer. It runs from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. EcoTran is now providing the transportation and has been good to work with; they are very generous with their services and offer the transportation at a significantly discounted rate. The United Way of Faribault provides most of the funding for the transportation.

Resources to Local Schools

Judi asked about the efforts in the Faribault Schools and in the community. Sarah Shippy described the services she provides in the Northfield and Faribault schools. Kathy S. shared that additional grassroots, citizen-driven efforts will hopefully begin in the coming months in the Faribault community; there are several community members who have expressed interest in being part of such efforts.

Brief Interventions

Since the last meeting, Chuck did some work with the Brief Intervention materials that the Provider Team had developed and looked at what other communities have done. He identified a one-page, six-question questionnaire from Boston Children's Hospital that he feels would be workable. He has adapted it (the CRAFFT) for possible use at the clinics in Northfield. Chuck would like to see this as a regular evaluation that is given to teens and young adults on a routine basis. Responding "yes" to two or more of the questions would trigger an intervention. The next step is to bring these materials to the Allina Clinic with the hope that they will be used. Anne offered to work with Chuck on this.

Kathy Anderson mentioned trying to work with the school Activities Directors and the physicians to do this in conjunction with sport physicals. It could also be triggered by camp physicals, immunizations and other regular visits.

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse Reduction

- Drop Box – There will be 2 drop boxes where community members can bring unwanted prescription drugs or over-the-counter medicines. One will be located at the Northfield Safety Center and one at the Faribault Police Department. These boxes will hopefully open in the fall.
- Community Education – A committee is working to develop a community education plan to alert Rice County residents about the boxes and the importance of safely using, storing, and disposing of such drugs.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center – Room HS222