



Clay County Local Advisory Council for Children's Mental Health

Thursday, December 4th, 2025 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Family Service Center, 715 11th St N. Room 4

"To promote an accessible, comprehensive and a unified children's mental health system within Clay County."

Members Present: Michelle, CCSS; Joni, The Village; Lukas, Clay Co Attorney Office; Amy, Moorhead schools; Michelle W, parent representative; Angie, Family Resource Center, Joy, The Village; Nora, The Village; Tanner, Solutions; Michelle M., LMHC; Alyssa, LMHC; Elise, LMHC; Shelly, Crisis Mobile; Hannah, Crisis Mobile; Lisa, Public Health; Lindsey, Juvenile probation; Megan, Barnesville schools, Josh, WCJC; Kara, PSJ; Lacey, CCSS; Barb, LMHC

Agenda:

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Megan
- Second: Michelle M
 - Approved by all

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance: \$4,992.00

- Will request annual stipend in January

New Business

- Wednesday, December 17th – family night at Career Academy from 5:30pm – 7:00pm
- Please come early if you are able volunteer, they are expecting about 150 people to attend, the holiday shop is a chance to shop for free for kids and parents, there will be a meal with desserts, Santa will be there for pictures.
- Matthews Voice a non-profit that supports all the local school homeless youth
 - o Still looking for 40 families (est. 200 kids) to get sponsored for presents this holiday season. Bring presents to the Career Academy on Sunday 12/14/25.
 - o Will share the link in the minutes

Agency/Consumer Reports

Clay County Social Services – seeing an increase in referrals for out of home placement, longer waitlists for PRTF, QRTF, CIBS, in-home, seeing a reduction and possible closure of some residential placements stating they are ‘determining if their services are needed.’ There are 4 PRTF’s in MN.

- Order of highest need options: hospital level of care, then PRTF (Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility), then QRTF (Qualified Residential Treatment Program), then DOC (Department of Correction) facilities or group homes.
- There is 1 facility in Wilmer for Children and Adolescent Behavioral Health Hospital – longer term hospital setting for kids, very hard to get kids into this level of care.

The Village – not doing the FASD grant at this time, starting adolescent A&D in Fargo in February, accepting referrals for out-pt., in-home is full, historically struggled to fill various groups we offer.

Restorative Justice – busy October & November with new referrals, “sanction season” trend where court involvement spikes, preventive cases (Peter Ferguson) is when the youth is under threat of court due to some lower-level concern that has come up, very collaborative with SRO’s to prevent and respond to issues with youth, will be posting a 20-hour week position for victim advocate services.

Lakeland Mental Health Services – child therapist (Katrina) is starting her own private practice but will remain at LMHC 1.5 days/week starting in January. Less than 10 referrals for CM services right now, seeing an increase in behavior concerns with kids where there are dual diagnosis needs but having a hard time finding places to refer for treatment/services.

PSJ – can adjust units to meet community demand, so ‘no bed available’ is not true any longer, so please reach out with any needs, attended a Career Fair at the Fargodome, working on identifying summer programming needs so let Kara know if you have ideas/needs, PSJ has an educational substance use component as a part of their adolescent treatment – but it’s not addiction treatment. If kids live out of town and need transportation to/from PHP, they can stay at the Ronald McDonald House and PSJ will transport to/from the facility for services.

Moorhead schools – December 19 – January 5 is the holiday break, food pantry at the school has been busy – there are pantries at Hopkins, Horizon, Career Academy, and high school. Family Healthcare partnership with Moorhead schools is doing incredible work at the Career Academy (door 4) for healthcare needs (physical health, immunizations, wellness checks, sports physicals, mental health needs), they are there the 1st Tuesday of every month from 8am – 4pm. Also, at the Career Academy there is a Family Healthcare Navigator who can help kids or adults who need insurance to apply for MN and ND insurance. There is a homeless healthcare benefit where you don’t have any costs for care. Moorhead schools have a partnership with Elle/Sageant for homeless youth to receive counseling services – last year saw 85 students in the schools. Working on developing a program for case management to be billed to insurance to help with transportation, independent living skills – this would not be as intense at Rule 79 targeted case management services.

Family Resource Center – helping families connect with services that are needed, Perinatal support group, starting January 10th in Moorhead library downstairs at 10:30am there will be a

meal and free resources like diapers, bottles, etc. - will share flyers when they are ready. If anyone would like to share your resources during one of their events, just connect with Angie.

Solutions – CTSS waitlist on hold while they hire, currently have 8 on the waitlist, new liaison is up and running.

Mobile Mental Health – 3 kids in Clay County were served last month, seeing more adults, open position for after hours EMS and daytime practitioner position in Fergus Falls.

Public Health – seeing high needs for financial help (eviction notices, etc.)

Juvenile probation - training on Safe Harbor practices in February at Law Enforcement Center – looking for community partners to be available at the training. Received a donation to purchase gifts for residents at WCJC, Justic Partners have chosen WCJC to provide gifts and have a giving tree where you can support that project.

Barnesville schools – Sources of Strength group (suicide prevention group) did a training at the high school, sadly the meal repack program was shut down by the USDA – finding ways to keep it going, PaY group did a coin drive to raise funds to give gifts to students of families in need for the holidays.

WCJC – 55 bed secure facility and 25 bed nonsecure facility, and 12 bed female transitional living program.

YLC – working on a foster care bill of rights to bring to legislators – MN is 1 of 24 states without a foster care bill of rights. Foster Care Day on the Hill is March 2, 2026, in St. Paul, please encourage current and past foster care youth to attend – the YLC can help with transportation or other needs.

Meeting called to order: 8:33 am

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 am

Minutes submitted by: Joni Medenwald

Next meeting: February 5th, 2025, 8:30am at Clay County Social Services Room 4.

**** REMINDER – the LAC will not meet in January 2026 do the New Years Holiday ****

Link to MN LAC Guidebook:

https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/lac-guidebook_tcm1053-386047.pdf