

Hennepin County Children's Mental Health Collaborative (CMHC)

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

St. Louis Park Byerlys Community Room (3777 Park Center Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416)

Etonde Awaah & Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, Coordinators

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Mission Statement

Improve access to and resources for high-quality, trauma-informed mental health services for children, youth and families within Hennepin County

Voting Governance Committee Members (Quorum 12): Pat Dale, Liz Gronert, Jenna Mitchler, Krista Phillips, Cindy Slowiak, Liz Franklin, Adesola Jaiyesimi, Karen Malka, Stacy McClendon, Jody Nelson, Maureen Seiwert and Angela Watts

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

Guests: Julie Atella, Jayne Conley-Braun, Shelly Kauzner

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda**

Committee approved January 10th meeting minutes and February 19th meeting agenda with no conversation or corrections.

2. **Welcome/Opening Circle**

Meeting attendees shared their name, organization, role represented on Governance Team, and answer to the question: "What color are you feeling this afternoon?"

3. **Committee reports/updates**

Margaret Sullivan gave an update on the Parent Catalyst Leadership Group (PCLG):

- *Hosted a Wellness Action Recovery Plan session. Eight attendees in total, and they offered great feedback on the experience. Everyone was incredibly knowledgeable about services, and there was a lot of sharing of resources and connections being made between caregivers.*
- *Plan to host a Coffee & Conversation next month. Their support group continues to meeting. New and returning members participate and appreciate its availability.*
- *PCLG is gathering information on the work the group has done over the past several years to give the rest of the CMHC so they know the good work being done.*
- *Laura visited the last PCLG meeting, her presence was well-received by the group. Parents want to understand how their input gets communicated with the appropriate channels, and Laura is committed to strengthening that understanding.*
- *Maureen asked whether parents of younger children were getting involved in the PCLG. Liz G. stated it is an area for growth and that the CMHC can help spread the word about the PCLG and invite parents of younger children to the table.*

Jody Nelson gave an update on the School-Based Mental Health committee:

- *They are preparing for a possible RFP from DHS. It required some collaboration and information with Hennepin County.*
- *Hennepin County is a real leader in the state/nation re: this work. The committee has been coming together, identifying models for practice, and informing up to DHS as they prepare for the next round of funding.*
- *Minneapolis Public Schools is considering making significant changes; community parents are waiting to see what happens (and will keep it in mind as they prepare).*

- Maureen asked how the group is looking at the early childhood needs of young children. MPS is working with Fraser, who will begin providing services for early childhood. MPS is preparing staff that interact with families to help them better understand what services are available for young children.

4. **2020 Calendar & Governance Committee Meeting Dates**

Etonde shared the CMHC 2020 Calendar of Activities (developed from known dates) as well as a suggested calendar for Governance Committee meetings. The plan is to make the approved calendars available on the website once it is back online.

Governance Committee members reviewed calendars and discussed any necessary changes:

- *March Governance Committee meeting date shifted to accommodate Coordinators & Cheryl's trip to the Tampa Conference*
- *Pat suggested we vote on the dates proposed and then amend if necessary*
- *Etonde clarified the correct November date was Monday, November 16th*
- *There was agreement that we shift the meeting times up by 30 minutes beginning in April, if possible.*
- *Margaret asked if the calendar would be regularly updated. Etonde stated the online version (when available) would be updated, but that she wouldn't print copies every time a change was made.*
- *Process moving forward: email Etonde when there are additions or changes to the calendar that need to occur.*

Committee members approved the proposed Governance Committee meeting schedule (with correct November date and time shift to 2:30-4pm beginning April 2020).

5. **System of Care Training Event**

Cindy went over plan for having Liz M. come to Hennepin County:

- *Over 150 people have registered for the February 24th event at Brookdale Library*
- *The Governance Committee will meet with Liz M. on Tuesday, February 25th from 1-3p at the Hennepin County South Minneapolis Service Center (Room 122)*
- *There is also dedicate time for Liz M. to meet with mental health providers (Tuesday, February 25th from 3-5p). Cindy said the provider session was almost full.*

Etonde shared the draft agenda + guiding questions developed to share with Liz M. for the meeting with Governance Committee. She said she captured the requests from the January meeting in the agenda and also mentioned that she hoped the designated workshop time will help us get concrete about the direction of the CMHC with respect to implementation. Governance Committee attendees discussed the following:

- *Pat asked if anyone prepared a light agenda for the provider meeting? Cindy said no, and that Liz M. asked specifically to meet with providers.*
- *Liz F. said the theory and framework would be helpful, but that we'll likely want to make things concrete for providers because this is a difficult time of year for them with clients.*
- *Angela asked whether Liz M. had experience working with communities that have significant disparities like Hennepin County. Cindy responded that she wasn't aware of the answer. Governance Committee agreed that Angela's question was an important one to add to the agenda.*

Etonde stated she would take the conversation and make sure suggested changes were reflected in the final agenda sent to Liz M.

6. Engaging new people in the CMHC

Laura began by sharing that as the CMHC's intention to implement a system of care spreads, certain individuals currently not connected to the CMHC have reached out and expressed interest in being involved in the Collaborative. Coordinators would like to take the opportunity to open conversation with Governance Committee regarding the CMHC's process for engaging new members.

Governance Agreement, which is valid for seven years following the last date signed, establishes who has to be a part of the Collaborative, but does not limit who can be a part of the Collaborative. Stacy mentioned that Governance Agreements were not designed or intended to be a substitute for bylaws or organizational governance document. All Hennepin County Collaboratives use the same Governance Agreement template and language, but not all Collaboratives have their own bylaws. Krista stated that old GAs had bylaws within them, which is part of what got lost when Collaboratives moved to a standard Governance Agreement.

Coordinators posed the following questions to the Governance Committee:

- What type of process do we want to have in place as we're getting the system of care underway? Do we want this process to be semi-formal or formal?*
- Who is a voting member of the Governance Committee?*

Cindy said that the Governance Committee has had the discussion about expanding membership and identifying categories of representation that the Committee felt the Collaborative needed. Some people have done some outreach to those identified groups, but the Committee has not talked about a formal process of including new people at the Governance table.

When this subject had been previously discussed, Committee members talked about the CMHC being representative of the community voice regarding children's mental health. They then tried to determine who the community voice was and how the Collaborative could be reflective of it. As such, Cindy thinks that the CMHC membership should be intentional in trying to represent that community, not just made up of whoever wants to be at the table. Cindy also acknowledge that the Collaborative is an overwhelmingly white group and that more people of color and Indigenous people are needed at the table. She worked hard to get Angela Watts to be our public health representation, but Angela has moved onto to a different role.

Angela added that if the CMHC does not have diverse representation, it will not have successfully implemented a system of care.

Maureen said she wants the CMHC to reflect the demographics of Hennepin County. Cindy responded that it could be reflective of those receiving treatment (which is disproportionately children of color), and that generally the Committee should think about this question of representation more deeply before coming to a decision. Diversification must happen intentionally.

Committee members agreed that members are representing specific constituencies, not just personal interests.

Laura then reviewed the current listed members of the Governance Committee. Committee members provided insight on those listed that had not regularly attended meetings to date as well as unfilled positions.

Etonde said that we're potentially asking a very big question of ourselves: are the people currently at the table the right people at the table? If we're going to try and have the CMHC reflect those represented in the system, we need far more representatives of color. Additionally, we need to know what CMHC role is

in the system of care (what does it mean to be the community voice and what impact are we going to have with the County) in order to let folks know when we're recruiting them what the ask is and what their impact will be.

Stacy added that FSCs are having the same conversation - looking at who is at the table. This conversation is not unique to the CMHC.

Laura asked Committee members to let the coordinators know if they are doing specific outreach. Coordinators will also follow up with listed Governance Committee members who haven't been attending. During March Governance Committee meeting, plan is to focus on how we want to do our work and who should be at the Governance Committee table (as voting and non-voting members) so that we can incorporate it into our bylaws.

Pat said it might be helpful for Cindy to use Liz Manley's trainings – or maybe in an email follow-up to training attendees – to advertise the CMHC.

7. **Adjourn**

Krista moved to adjourn, everyone agreed.

2020 Governance Meeting Schedule: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Wednesday, March 25