



**Children's Mental Health Plan
Steering Committee – Meeting #2**

Thursday, July 13, 2021

2:00p – 3:30p

Minutes

Present by Zoom: Kristine Argue-Mason (Early Intervention Co-Chair), Regina Crider (Treatment Co-Chair), Andrea Durbin (Social Determinants of Health Co-Chair), Julie Hamos (System Expert), Gudelia Lopez (WSS Consultant), Julianna McHale (ICMHP Program Coordinator), Jennie Pinkwater (Early Intervention Co-Chair), Barbara Shaw (System Expert), Sameer Vohra (ICMHP Interim Chair), John Walkup (Treatment Co-Chair), Amanda Walsh (ICMHP Director), Marlita White (Promotion and Prevention Co-Chair), Carol White (WSS Consultant), Kuliva Wilburn (WSS Consultant)

I. Welcome – Goal of Plan and this Steering Committee

Kuliva welcomed everyone to the second Steering Committee meeting.

II. Planning Process and Timeline Overview

Kuliva explained we are currently in Phase 2, where the Steering Committee will do the high-level priority setting work and then send the work on to the workgroups. Kuliva discussed the mental health plan process and the plan development timeline. WSS with ICMHP staff will set up a tool and guidelines for workgroups, but not until the Steering Committee does the high-level priority setting informed by the theory of change and landscape study.

Barbara asked if there will be support during committee work when members discover that more research or information gathering needs to be done on a topic. Kuliva stated every workgroup will probably determine more data is needed or is missing data, which can be included in our recommendations. Sameer added that we should assess the missing data as a steering committee and then bring that forward to workgroups to see if there is a consensus.

III. Workgroup Composition

Kuliva explained the core representation incorporated in the workgroups. Amanda said we will send the workgroup recommendations to each co-chair based on their assigned workgroup in the next day or two with goal that invitations are sent out next week.

Julie emphasized the need for providers directly in addition to associations; she also mentioned the current work underway to expand Medicaid in the school setting. Barbara agreed to make sure there is a larger focus than special education when incorporating the school system. Jennie asked about broader hospital representation since children's hospitals are distinct and need special focus, not just IHA. Sameer agreed and emphasized ICMHP's intention to not make this just a Chicago plan and to represent broad diversity. Amanda said she will send the entire excel to each co-chair. However, she is only asking for each co-chair to provide recommendations for their assigned workgroup.

Marlita asked where the Partnership stands in relation to racism and its connection to social determinants of health. She wanted to include some discourse on those issues. Amanda said the Partnership encourages these discussions and included a strong focus on these issues in our 2020 report. Sameer added that we want to make sure this topic is represented across all workgroups. Kuliva added that this will be part of toolkit that will be passed around which encompasses diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion, as well as trauma-informed practices and framework for system changes.

IV. Theory of Change and Landscape Study: Purpose

Kuliva explained the theory of change is the how and why of a change process. We need to set boundaries and to define our process and recommendations. This will serve as our guiding document.

V. Theory of Change Overview

Kuliva explained that we will look at the roles of the Partnership and Illinois across activities, actors, intermediate outcomes, and ultimate outcomes.

Barbara said the phrase system of care doesn't speak to health promotion and prevention. She advised that we broaden some of the language to include system of care services. Sameer asked the committee what is government responsible for? He said in children's wellness overall, children move along a life plan and then enter into different systems or institutions that don't work in alignment with one another and to mental health specifically. The phrase system of care doesn't speak entirely to the cultural change for all behaviors. We need to figure out the right terminology. Barbara stated we could use "along the continuum," in the phrase. Julie said it is important to note that for the system of care language, the NB consent decree just launched. System of care is going to be created as a set of services for those with the greatest behavioral health needs. It could be confusing since the state is building a system of care for certain kids but not all. Julie said she likes the continuum language. Kuliva added that wordsmithing is appropriate and

delineating the role of state agencies is critical before moving the work to the workgroups. Andi suggested pulling language from the preamble of the Illinois constitution. Kuliva will revisit theory of change language to include edits and bring to the next Steering Committee meeting. Julie said we could also add language on the silos of government to include the concept of interagency coordination for children with behavioral health needs as an intermediate outcome.

Marlita asked if there was a test available from an existing theory of change to assess the type of responsiveness as a state. She said it would be helpful to see the long-term effects on emotional and psychological wellness for all of this. Sameer asked how do we create the flexibility to create a nimble and effective system. We weren't nimble enough to handle the COVID crisis. Is there an opportunity to make our government expand and contract, which is our centering question? How do we handle big and small crises that happen every day for children and their families? Marlita said even though there is not an active war in our country, we could structure the conversation with recommendations that would mean we were able to address this if something were to happen. Kuliva said we could add this as a framework for the tools we use.

VI. Overview

Kuliva said we will look at the landscape study next.

VII. Next Steps

Amanda said we will follow up with an email to schedule a fourth meeting the last week of July.