



NEW HAMPSHIRE JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION NETWORK

PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES
IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

Network Meeting Minutes September 18, 2013

Welcome & Introductions-

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Nicole Rodler (Rochester) at 10:41am at Upreach Therapeutic Riding Center in Goffstown. Present were: Al Baines & Kristie Curtis (Goffstown -Crispins), Karen Kersting (Goffstown -UpReach), Dawn Shimberg (Tilton), Betsy Houde & Christina Connor (Nashua), Alecia Farquhar (Newport), Rachel Kohn & Sarah Moekel (CHI), Regina Rice Barker, Lindsay Porreca & Sara DeGennaro (Vermont), Peter Brigham (Hillsboro), Diane Casale (Derry) and Jessica Klingerman (Concord). Elisabeth Brown (Keene), Tim Tyler (Plymouth) and Roclyn Porter (Atkinson) were unable to join the meeting via internet due to technical problems and therefore are excused.
2. Karen from UpReach gave a brief overview of her program. They are a court approved diversion program but have yet to receive referrals as they are still building their accountability team and raising funds.

I.) Minutes/Approval: Jessica

1. The minutes of the March 20th and May 15th meetings were approved unanimously.

II.) Treasurer's Report: Peter

1. The current checking account balance is \$9,932.64. There has been no activity since the last meeting. Peter will let programs know if they have not paid for membership yet.

III.) Old Business:

1. Accreditation committee – Diane reported there are 13 court approved programs. Crispin's House in Goffstown and Seacoast Youth Services in Seabrook are currently in the process of becoming court approved. Typically, the accreditation process is rolling for new programs and recertification is twice a year but Diane has been taking recerts as they come in. All programs will be approved through 4/30/15 no matter when they are approved. Diane has also sent out an email looking for information from each program about what services they provide. This information was requested by the judges and Diane will pass along any information she receives to them. Sarah and Rachel from CHI also thought this information would be helpful for the program profiles they are creating.
2. Data collection committee – Peter and Rich – Nicole reported this information will be presented at the next meeting as the strategic planning committee was not ready for this information yet.
3. CHI/Youth Council diversion study project – Rachel reported that CHI has been learning all about diversion programs for the past few months. She and Sarah have visited 17 diversion programs and 2 judges. Information from these visits was compiled and presented at a meeting with Judge Kelly and other state officials on July 24th. Sarah passed out the packet of information that was presented at this meeting and Rachel briefly explained the data in the packet.

Betsy thanked all for sharing information about their programs. She reported that most everyone she interviewed highly regarded the accreditation process. Her findings also included some challenges faced by diversion programs throughout the state: funding, referrals and marketing. The next steps will include how to overcome these challenges as a network. Some things briefly discussed were: finding key stakeholders to represent diversion in the state, collaborating as a network to find funding for programs, better educating police departments, educating judges, creating a single video about diversion in NH for all programs to use, a yearly conference on diversion in the state, and upgrading the networks website.

Rachel reported that they are working on a survey for police chiefs in the state. This survey will ask what resources they are using. It will ask if they are using diversion services and if they are using diversion if it is meeting their needs. The goal of this survey is to help us improve referral pathways and help us figure out where we can strengthen our programs. This survey will be sent out on Monday.

Betsy reported she is designing a survey for regional networks regarding diversion.

4. Strategic Planning Committee –Nicole reported that Karen from UpReach offered to be the spokesperson of the Strategic Planning Committee as Deb has stepped down from Chair due to schedule conflicts. We are in need of a Chair if anyone in the Network would like to join our efforts.

Karen spoke about updating the network website and the benefits as we move forward. She suggested developing a website committee and finding a website coordinator for upkeep. Karen is working on a survey for agencies to participate in regarding the website. Some mentioned that they would like to see more agency profiles on the website with links to each program's individual website. Some also mentioned the challenges regarding the website and that it has been an ongoing struggle for us to keep up with. Karen will gather list of ideas after surveys are completed and then we will decide how to move forward.

Rachel mentioned that CHI will be creating site profiles for each agency. It will be a sheet of paper with a brief description of your agency and services as well as contact information. She will be emailing them to each agency to approve and once approved she will finalize and send back out to agencies for use. She hopes to have this all completed by November. These profiles could also be uploaded to the website.

IV.) New Business:

1. SAG update - Nicole reported that the SAG meeting is tomorrow and the diversion positions will be voted on. Diane has already had her interview. Nicole will update everyone as things happen.

VI.) Next Meeting:

DATE: November 20, 2013

TIME: 10:30 – 12:00

LOCATION: Community Alliance of Human Services, Newport

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Klingerman, Recording Secretary

New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network