

CT Family First: Community Partnerships and Youth and Family Engagement Meeting Notes

Video Conference: 2/25/2020

Agenda

- Welcome
- Workgroup Updates - Since February 4
- Follow-up to Community Ask since February
- Open Discussion

Workgroup Updates

Candidacy

- Last Meeting: February 20 Next Meeting: February 28
- Updates:
 1. Entered Phase II of the candidacy work now that the narrow and broad definitions have been authored.
 2. Goals of Phase II are: 1) Develop or identify screening and assessment tools; 2) articulate a process for serving families; 3) further articulate the broader prevention system; 4) identify metrics and outcomes
 3. The workgroup has solicited more parent/family involvement, which has been a success so far. At the 2/20 meeting, about 10 out of the 35 attendees were parents.
 4. The group level set and went over federal requirements. They discussed how to have the Department make the call on eligibility without families feeling like they are interacting with the Department.
 5. Chapin Hall provided a visual to help the group visualize the feedback loop between the child-specific plan, treatment, etc. It also highlighted the need for outcome data and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI).
 6. Chapin Hall is looking at the data behind the workgroup's decision and analyzing it to support the populations chosen in the Prevention Plan. This data will become a part of the written plan submitted to the Governance Committee.

Programs and Services

- Last Meetings: February 6 Next Meeting: February 27
- Updates:
 1. Received updates on the other workgroups and finalized their charter
 2. They have been refining their data and process mapping (matching candidate populations to services)

3. The workgroup has also begun to gather additional information on leveraging Clearinghouse services and other programs listed in other states' plans
 4. They are using the model inventory template to begin cataloguing known service interventions in CT.
 5. The hope is that they will be able to present at the next Governance Committee meeting in mid-March.
- Questions?
 1. Is the workgroup cataloguing just DCF services, or the full continuum (DSS, DMHAS, etc.)?

They are trying to map across the full continuum. They have reorganized the populations from Candidacy and then applied services to different groups. They are currently trying to think through what they are trying to accomplish (outcome) and the needs of these populations, then assigning interventions that will achieve this, with a focus on services that are either already in CT or on the Federal Clearinghouse.
 2. Are these materials on the webpage?

The mapping is not on the webpage. There was some discussion on whether it should be added, but this document is so fluid that the group did not want to post the iterations. The final version will be shared.

Kinship and Foster Care

- Last Meeting: February 14 Next Meeting: February 28
- Updates
 1. The 2/14 meeting was aimed at exploring policy--what are the strengths, opportunities, and limits of these policies?
 2. The workgroup has visualized a continuum of four parts: 1) before/outside DCF, 2) at the Careline, 3) in foster care, and 4) post-permanency.
 3. A representative from Probate Court has been attending the most recent meetings, which has been very helpful. One of the most interesting things the group has learned is that DCF does Probate Court's home studies, meaning even a family going through Probate Court will interact with DCF (though not through an investigation).
 4. The workgroup has determined that most families' greatest needs are financial, legal and housing supports. These supports exist outside of DCF but are quite fragmented.
 5. At the next meeting, the group hopes to examine the federal language around creating a Kinship Navigator Program and begin to decide what that would look like.

Fiscal and Revenue Enhancement

- Last Meeting: February 10 Next Meeting: March 20
- Updates
 1. As has been mentioned, this workgroup depends largely on the Programs and Service Array workgroup. With Programs and Service Array still working on determining the continuum, they have had to cancel two meetings until they have enough to work off of. Hopefully by their next meeting, the group will have sufficient information on the continuum being proposed and their work will ramp up.
 2. The approved candidacy definition was shared with the group.
 3. They have discussed the TANF Maintenance of Effort and determined that there are no clear concerns here.
 4. There have been some concerns on how far providers should go in this joint planning process with DCF, and some worry about ethics and conflicts of interest here. The Department has reached out about these concerns and will update the workgroups once we have more information.
 5. The one-time funding through the Family First Transition Services Act was explained, but we need more information from the Feds. The Department is also hesitant to determine what we would want to do with this funding until we have an idea of the bigger fiscal picture. More to come on this.

Governance Committee

- Last Meeting: January 27 Next Meeting: March 19
- Updates
 1. The Governance Committee has not met since our workgroup's last meeting; there are no updates from them at this time.
 2. At their next meeting, we hope to have some preliminary recommendations from the Programs and Service Array workgroup. We may also have drafts of parts of the plans.

Community Partnerships

- Last Meeting: February 4 Next Meeting: March 3
- Updates
 1. We have published a [State Index](#) that shows the status of the Prevention Plans for the states who have submitted. Chapin Hall created this document for us, and it also has links to the website, press release, and plan itself when available.

2. The changes that our workgroup made to the broad candidacy definition were shared with the Candidacy workgroup, and they have approved all changes. This will be presented to the Governance Committee on March 19.
3. The new meeting cadence is on the website and the Outlook invites have been revised to reflect these changes. As a reminder, we will now meet every week either through Microsoft Teams (one hour) or in person for two hours. Next week's meeting will be in person at Beacon.
4. The [Community Feedback Portal](#) is now available! Anyone entering feedback will choose whether they are a youth, family/caregiver, or a provider. Responses to the questions can be input directly into the system. This content will go to Ken Mysogland's staff, and we will process and use this information. If you have your own questions outside of the ones listed on the website, feel free to add those responses and note the way you are phrasing the questions.
5. There are plans to draft a Word Doc version of the feedback portal so that providers can use this to generate a free-flowing discussion with families.

Intensive Treatment 24/7 (QRTP)

- Last Meeting: N/A Next Meeting: March 3
- Updates
 1. This new workgroup is headed by Dr. Linda Dixon (DCF) and Alyssa Goduti (Adelbrook). An invite has been extended to members of any workgroup--if you are interested, please email to join!
 2. Currently there are around 25 people who have expressed interest in this workgroup.
 3. They will be looking at the specific standards of the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) language in Family First. The Federal Government has created six criteria for treatment facilities to be considered QRTP. If a facility is not a QRTP, the Department will only be reimbursed for a child's stay for two weeks.

Opinions on this Format?

- At the end of the meeting, the group was asked how they felt about the format. The group generally agreed that it was a good system. It saved on the commute time and presented information in a clear, well-organized way. They asked if it would be possible to submit questions over chat, and the Co-Leads agreed to investigate Microsoft Teams' capabilities further.
- As a reminder, the next meeting will be in person on March 3 from 2-4 pm at Beacon.