

Community Support Network of Nevada County

Notes

April 2, 2014 – Madelyn Helling Library
Gene Albaugh Community Room
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- 3:20 – 3:30 **Greet Incoming Partners** – Paula Roediger, Coordinator
45 present, including: Marcia Westbrook, CCCC; Laurie DeMartini, Kristen McGrew & Karen Wallack Eisen, PARTNERS FRC; Jack Meeks, Nev Co Board of Ed; Ned Russell, Got 40?; Martha Millar, Martha Millar Law; Janet Collins & Kathryn Lucas, EA; Nikki Robertson, Peggy Burks, Greg Schasiepen & Conni Barle, CASA; Suzanne Skrabo, Sylvia Pichitino & Marianne Sippel; SFF; Marley Mueller, parent; Charleen DeWitt & Lindsay Dunckel, CAPC; Laura Harter & Joyce Ash, CANC; Carol Viola, GVSD; Suzi Pfaffinger, BBBS; Laurie Sanders, Lael Walz & Michelle Goodwin, EMQFF; Barbara Coffman, Anew Day; Cindy Santa Cruz Reed CoRR; Meg Luce, SSHS; Allison McCann, DVSAC; Dena Valin, Friendship Club; Heather Carver, One-Stop; Guinevere Ewing, PLEAG; Cindy Wilson, Nev Co Public Health; Sharon O'Hara, Citizens for Choice; Michele Violett, Nev Co Behavioral Health; Mike Dent, Nev Co Social Services; John Fairchild, Twin Cities Church
- 3:30 – 3:40 **Welcome & Introductions** – Ned Russell of Got 40? and the Drug-Free Coalition of Nevada County
- 3:40 – 3:45 **Meeting Notes** – Accepted March's meeting notes. All in favor.
- 3:45 – 3:50 **Network Moments** – Ned Russell of Got 40? presents Developmental Asset #1:
Family Support
- Family provides high levels of love and support
- Physical safety, emotional security, and building feelings of being valued are most important.
 - Awareness of and quick, sincere response to children's needs.
 - Support includes listening to "trivial" problems, acknowledging feelings, making space and schedule adjustments for school work, soliciting and using children's input on family matters, and more.
 - Not just parents and guardians, but others in household: extended family members, single parent men or women friends, older siblings.
 - Also day care workers, who may influence 8 hours/day, especially with youngest kids.
- 3:50 – 4:40 **Meeting Focus** – *CPS Update and Trends*: Nick Ready, Emergency Response Supervisor for Nevada County's Child Protective Services

Vision Statement

All families in Nevada County have ready access to a well-integrated and coordinated support network that is easily available and well funded.

CSN Coordinator: Paula Roediger, 530-913-0270

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There are 3 primary lead social workers at CPS. When they first take a call they run it through empirical decision making as an assessment. There are different kinds of suspected child abuse or neglect - physical, emotional, sexual & caretaker absence. There are 4 types of responses to a report. The first is to "evaluate out." Nevada County is a Differential Response County. There's only about 10% recidivism response in the Truckee area. The state gives CPS 10 days to respond but they aim for 3 days. If the child is under 3, however, they respond within 2 days. They aim to develop relationships with families so they can help them with issues that arise. Rapport-building is a big factor. CPS is no longer able to go into schools and speak with children without parents' permission, however it's very rare that a parent denies them speaking to children. They are looking at safety and risk. Risk is about 90% what they assess for. They try to make a determination regarding the other 3 types of responses to a report: founded/unfounded; determined/undetermined; substantiated/unsubstantiated. Both parents need to meet the code for parental unfitness for CPS to remove children from their home. Their ideal plan is an informal agreement called "voluntary family maintenance." CPS's goal is to never have to go back to a home for another incident.

There are 2 ways to remove children from their home: delivery of custody and warrants. They aim to get parents involved in services right away. Many families are "repeats" and they want to help educate them. They want to get buy-in from the families.

There are 3 plans - family maintenance (court-ordered), family reunification and bypassing services (where nothing will alleviate the risk if children go back.) If this happens, they try to place the children with relatives. They sometimes run into not being able to place with families because there have been prior cases of either criminal or child welfare history with the children's relatives.

Nick then gave us a CPS staffing update. He oversees emergency response workers. They currently have 2 full-time workers. Julia Gobert does the intakes. Lorraine Moore does emergency response social work. There are 5 ongoing workers: Callie Sheller; Carla Ohlmstead; Margaret Collins, Judith Larabee and Jennifer Myers. There are 3 Social Service aids; Monica Harkins; Jessica Griffin and Robin Kleins. Janice Young is their legal office assistant. Tamara Fadel is their office assistant. They are currently hiring for a Program Manager.

Ideally, when fully staffed, they can do "warm handoffs."

In Truckee, they've gone through a decline in hours that Social Workers are there. In the 3 years that Nick worked there, they would average about 9 referrals per month. Truckee tends not to report. FRCs have had a significantly positive impact in keeping families together in that area. CPS's intent is to get a primary worker in the Truckee area.

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Nick then addressed local trends they're dealing with - meth use, prescription pill abuse, 16 and 17 year olds acting out and parents not being able to handle them (a parent unable to keep their kids safe.) If parents have Medical, they can do wraparound services for the family.

AB12 deals with 18 year olds ageing out of the system. If they've spent 2 days in foster care, at any time, they're eligible for AB12 funds. There have been many success stories resulting from AB12.

Questions and Answers:

Q: How do you find adoptive placements?

A: Concurrent Planning is Plan B. CPS only places children with families if they are committed to them for the rest of their lives. They will place with foster adopt homes. They use Family Finding, Environmental Alternatives, Children's Hope and other organizations. CPS aims for permanency for children. Foster homes are getting full. CPS especially needs homes open to teenagers and little children. Being a foster parent is demanding and recruiting and retaining them have been challenging. They make every effort to keep children in their home without compromising their safety. CPS will try to arrange a meeting between biological parents and foster parents.

Q: What about placing children with relatives?

A: This doesn't happen often because relatives may not be local.

Q: How many parents have co-occurring mental health issues and drug abuse issues?

A: Not that many but when this does occur, CPS makes every attempt to serve them....When a baby tests positive for meth, CPS will remove.

Q: How are the rates of referrals? Stable?

A: Between 30 and 40 families are in CPS's current case load. There are about 100 children in foster care.....In the summer, they tend to get less referrals.

Q: What could the community do to make your job easier?

A: Preventative measures. CPS has adopted a Safety Organized Practice model, building safety networks. They try to bring in family, church, work members and others who can support families. Strengths-based. Whenever feasible, they aim to keep children at home. In terms of helping, Nick welcomes any information about community classes or opportunities to help families.

Q: Do you ever have to have kids institutionalized?

A: Rarely. CPS will usually get the referrals after that's happened.

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Q: Has cutting been happening with more frequency?

A: Not really. He feels it's more of a social trend but that there is something else marinating there if a child or teen is cutting. CPS wants to know why they're cutting. Depression? Family disruption?

If you have questions, call Nick at 530-265-1654.

4:40 – 4:50

Building the Network Moment – Karen Wallack Eisen spoke about Celebrating Families. She runs the Grass Valley Family Resource Center. Merchants throughout the area will be displaying cardboard "children" during the month of April, in support of children and families. These "children" hold messages about positive interaction with children. Also happening this month: a Flash Mob on April 26th. They will be dancing at a to-be-disclosed location in Grass Valley. For more information, call Karen at 530-273-4059 or 530-588-4844 or email her at kwallack-eisen@nevco.k12.ca.us.

4:50-5:00

Network Announcements and Meeting Evaluation - Partners made short announcements about upcoming events/programs. Audience members completed meeting evaluation forms.

5:00

Adjournment – Next Meeting: May 7th, 2014.
Meeting focus - *Becoming an Adult: Challenges for Teens and Young People with Mental Health Conditions*

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Community Support Network of Nevada County Meeting Agreements

- Make decisions by consensus.
- Create an atmosphere of mutual respect that includes active listening and listening without judging.
- Start and end on time.
- Maintain a sense of humor and a positive attitude.
- Bring concerns to the whole group. Don't take them to the parking lot after the meeting.
- Set up the room in an inclusive way.
- Take responsibility for a task only if you have the time to accomplish it.
- Everyone is empowered to be a process observer and take ownership for the health of the meeting and is responsible for the health of the whole meeting.
- Be sensitive to others' need for more information. Make sure everyone understands.
- Be careful of injecting your self-interest and label it as such. Be able to layout your agency's interest and be open to other's interests.
- Meetings are meaningful and have a shared purpose.
- This is a living document and can be changed as needed.

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