

Arizona Youth Mental Health Alliance Task Force Advocacy and Policy Task Force Report

Meeting Date: September 7, 2018

Task Force Leadership and Membership:

Chair: Leslie Cohen

Attendees: Susie Huhn, Vicki Cuscino, Gabby Ficchi, Judy Keagy, Dave Delawder, Cindy Godwin, Mark Person, Arcy Cornidez

Task Force Goals & Objectives:

- Develop materials (fact sheet) on changes in Medicaid behavioral health systems starting Oct 1
- Increase provider engagement through forum for youth and providers (youth telling providers their needs)
- AZ as first step in developing policy to require Mental health education and services in schools

Meeting Agenda:

- Review of role of task force and objectives and additional membership
- Discussion of Policy development as part of task force and initiative
- Discussion of Provider engagement and coordination/access to services

Accomplishments since last meeting

This was first meeting

Narrative:

The group's discussion centered on how schools can better address behavioral health through student education, school personnel training, and actual service provision in schools. In many states behavioral health is provided in school. Casa de los ninos is starting to provide services in 2 school districts - Amphi and Flowing Wells. Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) is a vehicle for teaching schools to address behavioral issues in positive manner. Difficulty also because of high student to counselor ratio in schools. May be an issue to partner with Red for Ed. The difficulty with multiple school districts and requirements for individual access agreements makes system-wide change difficult. All agreed changing state standards would be good, but as a necessary first step would be working with S. AZ school superintendent's group under the leadership of Dustin Williams to convene a meeting with them to address this issues. (?? will contact Dustin Williams to start the discussion with the idea of holding the meeting in the spring). The other main area discussed was how to bring providers together, so that we can ensure there is coordination and increased access. We agreed providers need to hear from youth and that a forum where youth talked to providers about their needs would be a vehicle for starting to make progress on this. (???) will take leadership in starting to recruit youth and formulate plan for

provider forum with youth). The group discussed the need to identify additional members and who else is out there in terms of training, groups, work on this issue and advocacy. The following were discussed: health homes all have advisory councils; Cenpatico has council; juvenile court has group meeting monthly, school resource officers and sheriffs dept.; pediatricians and other physicians; Arizona Children's Association; outlying counties representation; HOPE;

Goals Not Yet Met:

N/A

Assignments for next meeting:

Responsible Party:

- Contact Dustin Williams about meeting with Superintendents/Alliance
 - Begin to develop fact sheet/materials on Complete Care Contract Changes
 - Recruit additional members for task force
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Recommendations to the Alliance: (Optional)

Will bring to next Alliance Meeting our recommendation for:

- 1) Meeting with Superintendents and AzYMHA
- 2) Provider/youth forum.
- 3) Will also ask about recruiting additional task force members
- 4) Discuss creating materials on Complete Care AHCCCS contracts.

Next meeting in early November after full Alliance meeting in mid-October.