

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC)
Minutes of September 3, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Noelle Moeggenberg, Joanie Blamer, Janette Mistele, Pam Blue, Paul Jarboe, Nate Alger, Dianna Bauer, Chris Barsheff (5:06 pm)

Others Present: Pam Blue, Lisa Emery

Absent: Sonny Wheelock, Christie Minervini

Called to Order: 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2020 and June 4, 2020

MOVED by Jarboe, seconded by Mistele to approved minutes as presented. **APPROVED** unanimously

MOTION CARRIES

Public Comment:

NONE

Juvenile Diversion Program Update – Pam Blue

Pam Blue gave an overview of the Juvenile Diversion Program and the grant available to assist in covering the assessment and referral costs.

13 referrals have come from the Prosecutor's office for the program. The referrals made by the Prosecutor's office have helped get these juveniles into the programs available instead of entering the criminal justice system.

Primary referral sources across the state are schools and the courts. With school being released early this year it has been a problem identifying those juveniles that might qualify for the diversion program. For juveniles a good motivator to follow treatment plan is that charges are not pursued as long as they complete the program. The length of treatment is determined by the therapist. Statistics have shown the longer they are engaged the better the outcome.

A juvenile may terminate from the program if they have new offenses or choose not to complete the program, in which case the charges will be reauthorized. IF someone starts the program but ages out the grant funds stop but monitoring is essential to make sure their treatment is complete.

Most insurance providers should cover the treatment expenses. Parents are educated about what insurance will cover.

(Attached Mental Health Access/Juvenile Justice Diversion Program Q&A)

Public comment.

NONE

MOVED by Mistelle, seconded by Blamer, to adjourn at 5:39 p.m. **APPROVED** unanimously

Date

Noelle Moeggenberg, Chairperson



Mental Health Access/ Juvenile Justice Diversion Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Diversion Program?

The Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Diversion Program is a voluntary program for youth (age 6-17) and their families. Northern Lakes CMHA – Mental Health Profession; Juvenile Justice Diversion utilizes a brief evidence-based screening tool to help identify behavioral and mental health needs in youth. This is done by the coordinator conducting a meeting with the youth and/or family in the community, school, court, or NLCMHA office. Depending on the need, the youth and their family will be connected to community resources, such as counseling, psychiatry, mentoring programs, transportation services, etc.

Q. What does the program cost?

The program is free for all families and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Q. Who can be referred?

Youth, who:

- are between the age of 6 to 17 years.
- may display challenging behaviors, such as: chronically absent from school, running away from home, history of delinquency, difficulty obeying authority figures, anger outbursts, anxiety, appears withdrawn, etc.
- Has been offered a criminal diversion by Grand Traverse or Leelanau County Prosecutor's Office.

A youth does not need to have a history of mental health concerns or diagnosis to be referred.

Q. How do I refer a child?

Step 1: Complete the "*Referral Form.*" Advise family of referral if they are not present at time of initial referral.

Step 2: If present, have parent/guardian review and sign the "*Screening Consent Form.*"

Step 3: A "*Consent and Authorization to Release Protected Health Information*" can be completed with the parent/guardian. This is a voluntary step for the parent/guardian and allows for timely follow-up with the referral source.

Step 4: Submit the completed forms by emailing; pam.blue@nlcmh.org or fax: 231-933-4931

Q. I was unable to obtain the parent/guardian's signature for the consent form. Can I still send the referral?

Yes - If you are unable to obtain a parent/guardian's signature for the consent form, still send the referral. We ask that you explain the program to the family and inform them that one of the coordinators will contact them. The Mental Health Professional; Juvenile Justice Diversion will attempt to meet with the family in a convenient location to obtain the signature. Please be aware that if a signature is needed, it can delay the screening process.

Q. The child is already receiving therapy but is still having challenges. Can I still refer them?

Yes - The Mental Health Professional; Juvenile Justice Diversion can still meet with the youth/family to explore additional services.

Q. Can I refer a youth/family that speaks a different language, is deaf or blind, or has other special accommodations?

Absolutely - Please indicate any special accommodations on the referral.

Q. Will the Mental Health Professional; Juvenile Justice Diversion provide therapy?

No, the Coordinator will explore any mental health needs and connect the youth/family to a provider for ongoing services. Depending on need and insurance, the Mental Health Professional; Juvenile Justice Diversion can complete an Access Eligibility screening for services within Northern Lakes CMHA provider network. However, youth/families may also be referred to agencies outside of the Community Mental Health system.

Q. What happens after the youth is screened?

- The Mental Health Professional; Juvenile Justice Diversion will reach out to the parent/guardian to provide customized recommendations over the phone. Additionally, the family will receive a written copy in the mail.
- The family is not required to follow these recommendations.
- If a "*Consent and Authorization to Release Protected Health Information*" is on file, the referral source will receive a copy of the recommendations in the mail.

Q. What type of follow-up is offered to families?

All families receive follow-up via phone call at 30 days and six months from the initial screening date. This ensures families are connected to services and any additional needs can be addressed.

Please contact the Northern Lakes CMHA Mental Health Professional;

Juvenile Justice Diversion Program: Pam Blue

with any questions:

231-933-4931