

Family Focus Group 1/10/12

We focused on Education, Transition age youth, and residential. We asked them 2 questions. What exists now? What should it look like?

Education

What exists now?

- Some services and supports, but not enough.
- Poor follow through, lack of organization on the schools part
- Parents have to work too hard going through too much red tape and then have to wait too long for services
- Lack of information sharing with the parents concerning existing programs. Felt the school was trying to keep programs under cover
- There is no communication between the public and charter schools
- Lack of tolerance. Children are sent home far too quickly when they are having challenges. Felt the plan wasn't being followed

What should it look like?

- Strong parent teacher relationship
- Adherence to the IEP
- Liaison Advocate support at the schools
- More knowledge for families concerning services and programs
- Training for teachers, staff, and administration geared towards MH and behavioural aspect of children
- More specialized personnel

Residential (Programs and Services)

What exists now?

- Poor discharge planning (children come home with no services)
- Lack of communication with families
- Youth are discharged with insufficient meds (wait lists for psychiatrists are often longer than the youth have meds for)
- Lack of school district cooperation (young people coming out of residential or hospitalization can not register until they are discharged and back in their own district)

How Should it be?

- 1:1 support in the schools to help with the transition
- Psychiatrist and Therapist in place before youth is discharged
- Planned respite for youth and parents
- Help with non-compliant youth
- Parent Support like (Waiver Wed)
- Family Readiness for youth's return
- Gradual stepdown of services after discharge

Transition-age Youth

What Exists Now?

- Nothing
- Some supports but not easily accessed
- Homeless Prevention Program
- The process of changing from C&Y to Adult clinics is redundant You have to do all the same paperwork over that already exists in their C&Y file
- There is a lapse in care during transition. Have to start wait list all over in the adult clinics

How should it be?

- More skill builders and mentors to help teach and support them in their basic needs
- Navigator to help guide them through the process to apply for their benefits
- More housing options. Right now they go from parents home to independent living. A halfway house (SILP) was suggested to ease that transition
- Earlier planning for the transition (16 to 17)
- Legal help concerning guardianship