

Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

Roundtable Discussion

Topic: Mental Health - Child

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Participants

Invited Representatives

Ken Lawrence	Regional Representative	Region 20
Dr. Dan Diaz	Director, Children s Mental Health Program	Center for Healthcare Services
Dr. James Rogers	Executive Director	Child Guidance Center
Fred Hiens	Executive Director	Southwest Mental Health
Adele Gonzales	Program Director	Easter Seals

Foundation Staff and Trustees

Palmer Moe	Executive Director
Megan Kromer	Director of Programs and Evaluation
Michael Bacon	Grants Manager
Mark Carmona	Grants Manager

Overview

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center

- The Texas Rehabilitation Commission funds Easter Seals with system referrals coming from high schools.
- They offer programming in personal and social adjustment; decision-making skills and they have an early childhood development program.

Southwest Mental Health Center

- Established in 1886, the Center was originally an orphanage until the 1950 s when its mission expanded to provide care for the emotionally disturbed.
- Currently, they provide crisis intervention and acute care with an outpatient partial hospitalization program with intensive and regular outpatient services. In addition, the Center provides a substance abuse Woman s Program for a number of clients.
- They have two locations, one in the Medical Center and one at W. Woodlawn and St. Cloud with 132 beds in the hospital and rehabilitative facilities. Their total budget is \$8 million dollars a year with less than 2% (\$189,000) coming from United Way. The number of inpatient clients served last year in all of the programs was 850.
- The payment schedule includes third party reimbursement, insurance and Medicaid.
- They have a teaching affiliation with the UTHSC — Psychiatric Residents program and contracts with:
 1. Center for Healthcare Services
 2. Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, and
 3. Texas State Hospital.
- The age breakdown for clients are 3-18 years of age with diagnostic work. Diagnostic work is done with the under 5 years of age population. Those 10-15 years of age receive the majority of the services. A typical diagnosis is acting out (behavioral) with aggressive and suicidal/homicidal tendencies.

Child Guidance Center

- The Center was established 42 years ago in 1956.
- They were originally funded through the United Way and currently 25% of their budget comes from United Way. Their annual budget is \$1.6 million a year. They are located in the Medical Center and own the deed to the land on which they sit. Hill Burton Funds provided the resources to purchase the property. They will serve 2400 clients a year with 1200 of those being served off-site.
- The Center operates on a sliding scale. The Center serves the Medicaid population.

- The concept for the Center was a multi-disciplinary team collaboration with psychiatrists and social workers set in the 1920 s. Currently, the collaboration has expanded to include schools and probation units. They have extended their service to the 10 juvenile probation sites and work with the Northside School District, NEISD, SAISD, and East Central school districts.
 1. Northside is the leader within the districts in allocating resources and support for the client population.
 2. NEISD does not allocate resources for students.
 3. SAISD has a presence in four middle schools and four high schools.
- Because of their expertise and high level of training, they can handle simple to complex problems. They have been involved with the medical school for 30 years.
- A recent computerization of the Center cost \$75,000 to upgrade computer equipment with some additional training costs.
- The Center works with the Head Start program in offering psychiatric assessments. A working relationship with Santa Rosa s downtown location reaches out to families with a multi-disciplinary clinic.

Center for Healthcare Services (CHCS) — Children s Mental Health Program

- The Children s Mental Health Program is funded through the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Their budget is \$3 million dollars a year. The operating budget for the entire CHCS is \$35 million. They have two sites at E. Josephine and Culebra.
- They provide outpatient services, medication services, case management, and a ropes course. They have contracts with the schools. Further, they are one of four demonstration sites to develop an array of treatment services for kids 1-6 years of age and includes early intervention and research studies.
- School-based services are provided with the basic mission of serving indigent kids. However, a trend is developing to serve kids with private pay insurance due to CHCS providing more complete and consistent service than other services. At times, it works better than the HMO s. There are subsidies for medication provided for all clients. The program buys medication wholesale from Walgreen s.

Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

- The CRCG is a local interagency group composed of public and private agencies that develop service plans for children and adolescents whose needs can be met only through interagency coordination and cooperation.
- CRCGs originated when the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 298 in 1987. This bill directed state agencies serving children to develop a community-based approach to provide better coordination of services for children and youth who have multi-agency needs.
- CRCGs are organized or established on a county by county basis. Members are from public and private sector child-serving agencies within that county. Many CRCG s also include parents of children with disabilities as regular members. CRCG members include the following:
 1. Texas Commission for the Blind
 2. Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 3. Texas Department of Health
 4. Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
 5. Texas Department of Human Services
 6. Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
 7. Texas Education Agency (or local school district)
 8. Texas Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention
 9. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (or local juvenile probation department)
 10. Texas Rehabilitation Commission
 11. Texas Youth Commission
 12. Local representatives from private sector service providers
- The local CRCG roughly handles four case staffings a month. The group handles more and more children having children with poor pre/post natal care and with substance abuse problems.
- The CRCG serves as a referral location for people calling in with needs.

General Information

- University Health System has chosen not to serve children with mental health issues.
- The state of Texas ranks 49th in allocation of funds to mental health for children. The local distribution of funds is low with no real political advocacy and legislation. Further, at the wider county level, there are no services provided for Mental Health. The only possibility would be the University Health Systems.
- The major gap in service in this field is adolescents with dual diagnosis. Juvenile probation sees 5600 kids a year with 80% of those kids diagnosed with substance abuse problems and 50% mental health problems. In San Antonio, there are no detoxification services for children. There is a tendency to segregate illnesses as opposed to looking at the issue holistically.
- From a policy perspective, there needs to be better collaboration, integration of services, better system of care, as well as pooling of funding to systemically impact this problem.
- Many of the needs and programming requirements present today were present during the 1970 s. During that time the mental health community came together to develop collaborative approaches that could work today if revisited.

Systemic Change

Areas that can serve as points of systemic change are the following:

- Wholistic approach with the family, particularly parent education
- Categorical funding
- Basic health insurance coverage for kids
- Early intervention (teenage moms, prevention)