

**BRIDGING LOCAL SYSTEMS:
STRATEGIES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COLLABORATION**

ALLIANCE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**Friday, March 24, 2017
Durham, North Carolina
12:00 - 3:00 pm**

ATTENDEES

Crystal Black, *Cumberland County DSS*; Michael Becketts, *Durham County DSS*; Craig Burrus, Lisa Cauley, Antonia Pedroza, *Wake County Human Services*; Vaughn Crawford, Beth Melcher, Ann Oshel, Kate Peterson, Rob Robinson, Dough Wright, *Alliance*; Yvonne French, Catharine Goldsmith, Eric Harbour, Joyce Massey-Smith, Suzanne Merrill, Teresa Strom, *NC DHHS*; Anne Foglia, *NCIOM*; Warren Ludwig, *consultant/facilitator*.

Note: The representatives who had been attending for Johnston County and the director of Cumberland County DSS were unable to be present.

AGENDA

- Adult needs and guardianship issues
- Continued discussion of child issues including capacity, placing children locally, preventing disruptions, and development of a core list of outcomes/metrics for reporting and improving
- Planning for the final summit meeting

ADULT NEEDS AND GUARDIANSHIP ISSUES

Warren Ludwig, summit facilitator, reviewed the adult issues discussed at the December 2nd meeting including the growing adult population, the need for close collaboration after a clerk of court orders a multi-disciplinary evaluation (MDE), and concerns that some adults are being declared incompetent inappropriately. He also shared that the Partners summit meetings had discussed DSS concerns that adults for whom they were guardians were being approached for the Transition to Community Living Initiative (TCLI) who had little chance to succeed. DSSs in the Partners catchment area were concerned both about potential disruption for these adults and that

they were put in the position of being “the bad guy.” Partners and DSS agreed to focus proactively on eligible individuals they knew and believed had good potential for benefit.

Craig Burrus said that Wake County also had concerns that adult wards of Wake County were being approached for TCLI when their guardians did not think it in their best interests. Ann Oshel of Alliance gave a brief overview of the lawsuit settlement that led to TCLI and the availability of intensive wraparound services to assist individuals moving from facility to community settings. She explained Alliance’s obligation under the settlement to screen eligible adults and continue offering “in-reach” to those individuals. One challenge, however, especially in parts of Wake County, is locating affordable housing options.

DSS agencies found it helpful to better understand the requirements under which Alliance is operating. Wake requested that an Alliance representative attend a DSS guardianship meeting to exchange information about their programs and explore how the two agencies can better collaborate. Alliance will be holding a four part educational series on the history, philosophy, and provisions of the Olmstead settlement, as well as the TCLI team processes, and Alliance encouraged DSS representatives to attend.

Alliance and DSS participants agreed that that it would be useful to have further discussions focusing on collaboration on adult issues. Suzanne Merrill and Joyce Massey-Smith from the Division of Aging and Adult Services agreed to help convene this meeting.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF CHILD NEEDS

Warren Ludwig briefly summarized a handout based on discussion from the previous meetings titled “Discussion Focus: Build Capacity, Place Children Locally, and Prevent Disruptions.” The handout listed four interconnected problems:

- Inadequate supply of foster homes;
- Therapeutic home, treatment, and crisis placements for foster children are in short supply and take too long to be accessed and approved for funding;
- Many of the foster and therapeutic home beds that exist in each county are filled by children from other counties; and
- Children disrupting from foster and therapeutic placements.

The handout also listed hypothesized causes, negative impacts, and proposed joint strategies that had been discussed at the two previous summit meetings. The handout is available [here](#).

Rob Robinson of Alliance reported that he had met with his staff to generate ideas for topics that could lead to constructive collaboration between Alliance and DSS. Alliance suggested the following topics:

- Review of Alliance TFC performance measures
- Location of providers – Alliance Geo-mapping
- Expectations of Foster Care vs. Enhanced Foster Care
- Sharing of Alliance’s Reinvestment Plan efforts which will positively impact DSS
- Consider establishing Complex Care Conferences/Protocols
- Child Case Management Pilot update

DSS representatives expressed continued interest in receiving provider specific data on placement disruptions and other performance measures. Alliance agreed to provide that data after:

- a) Improving the quality of the data (currently available data is primarily self-report but Alliance’s new data base will soon be able to generate more reliable data)
- b) Discussing with the providers what information will be shared and putting data sharing in providers’ FY 2018 contracts that begin in July.

Alliance invited DSS representatives to attend the April collaborative meeting with providers to participate in discussing the specific data to be reported and shared. It was noted that DSS already has regular representatives who attend the collaborative meetings, and they could be prepared to contribute to the discussion. Alliance said it expects to be able to share agency specific data after contracts are in place and the validity of data from the new system is confirmed. DSS representatives assured Alliance that they have the organizational integrity to work with the MCO to interpret data appropriately and respect data privacy guidelines.

Three handouts from Alliance were distributed at the meeting:

- Suggested topics for BLS Discussion (see above)
- A Power Point titled TFC Initiatives prepared by Kate Peterson providing information on the following initiatives:
 - Reduction of Moves
 - Improve Matching Competency
 - Provide Evidence Based and Best Practices
 - Become a Trauma Informed Network
 - Enhanced TFC Models (with chart comparing regular to enhanced TFC)
 - Rapid Response Crisis Diversion (with chart comparing regular to Rapid Response Crisis)
- A Complex Case Protocol

Anne Foglia shared a handout summarizing discussions across the four regions that have been holding summits to date and an outline for the regional summit report that will be produced after the fourth Alliance summit meeting.

PLANNING FOR FINAL SUMMIT MEETING

It was agreed to send out topic options for final agenda items so that counties who were not present at this meeting could review the minutes and suggest their areas of greatest interest. Options discussed during the meeting included:

- Generating recommendations to state DHHS or the legislature
- The topics above suggested by Alliance staff
 - Review of Alliance TFC performance measures
 - Location of providers – Alliance Geo-mapping
 - Expectations of Foster Care vs. Enhanced Foster Care
 - Sharing of Alliance’s Reinvestment Plan efforts which will positively impact DSS
 - Consider establishing Complex Care Conferences/Protocols
 - Child Case Management Pilot update
- Other strategies suggested at earlier meetings (detailed in the Discussion Focus handout)
- Moving forward after the BLS summits

The final summit meeting will be Friday, April 21, from 12-3 PM at Alliance Behavioral Health, 4600 Emperor Boulevard, Durham.