

Office of Comprehensive Child Mental Health (OCCMH)
Update to Mental Health Commission
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Submitted by Emily Koenig

Early Childhood Mental Health

One of the goals of the Early Childhood Mental Health workgroup, under the Governor's Coordinating Board for Early Childhood, led by the DMH, is to build the capacity of mental health professionals to serve the social and emotional needs of young children (0-8) in the community and better connect the early childhood field with mental health.

In 2014, the workgroup developed a 6-hour training targeted to mental health providers that introduced the essential components of social and emotional development of children ages 0-8, and the importance of early identification and intervention. This training was followed up by a 6-month learning collaborative where participants were asked to present cases of children they were serving. The project wrapped up with a 6-hour training providing participants with a taste of several interventions shown to be effective in young children. In total, 24 participants completed the two trainings and full six-month collaborative.

This summer, the Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, with funding from the Department of Health and Senior Services and Department of Mental Health, will sponsor a second cohort of this training learning collaborative with capacity to train 30 more mental health professionals.

Custody Diversion Protocol

Over the last year, the OCCMH has lead a cross-agency workgroup tasked with revising the Custody Diversion Protocol and developing a training for staff across the Departments of Social Services – Children's Division (DSS-CD), Juvenile Office and courts, and the DMH and our contracted providers.

The Custody Diversion Protocol was developed through the shared efforts of DMH, DSS-CD, the courts and family members after the passage of HB 1453 and SB 1003 in 2004, which sought to prevent families from giving up custody of their child to the state in order for them to access behavioral health services.

Since its inception, extensive training of Children's Division (CD) staff, DMH provider staff and juvenile justice officers has occurred across the state. The last training efforts around the Protocol occurred regionally in 2010. Due to significant turnover both at the state and

local level since this time, DMH and our partners have been working together develop a plan to ensure continued education and training.

Seven trainings have been scheduled in late May and early June in St. Louis, Kansas City, Poplar Bluff, Hannibal, Columbia, Springfield, and St. Joseph. A webinar will also be developed in the summer of 2015.