

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services
Meeting Date – July 30, 2009

Children's Services Council
2300 High Ridge Road
Boynton Beach, FL
Conference Room 244

**“Special Committee Meeting on Evidence-Based Outcomes & Process”
MINUTES**

CAC Members Present:

Dr. Richard Galeta (Chair)
Barbara Jacobowitz (1st Vice-Chair)
Nate G. Nichols

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Houston Tate

Others Present:

Channell Wilkins
David Rafaidus
Linda Gordon
Dr./Deputy Patrick J. Halperin
Audley Reid, Ph.D., Sr. Planner
Office of Community
Revitalization
Lisa Williams, Ph.D., Planning
and Policy Analyst III,
Children's Services Council

Agenda Items

(Note: This was not a Regular Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting and does not count toward attendance/absenteeism. Also, a quorum was not present.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call – Linda Gordon – 10:06 a.m.
- B. Introduction of Guests
 - Lisa Williams, Ph.D.
 - Audley Reid, Ph.D.
- C. Disclosures
 - None
- D. Staff Information Updates
 - David Rafaidus reminded everyone that the August 13, 2009 CAC Regular Meeting has been canceled.
- E. Chair Comments
 - None

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

- A. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions
 - None

B. Adoption

- There was no quorum of CAC members for this workshop meeting, so the Agenda was approved by unanimous consensus.

3. **Regular Business (Action Items)**

AGENDA ITEM 3A: Evidence-Based Outcomes & Process (Presented by Lisa Williams and Nate Nichols)

Introduction by Nate Nichols:

The purpose of today's meeting is to plan for a workshop on 'Understanding Evidence-Based Practice'. At a previous Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Lisa Williams was requested to do a workshop on the topic. Her previous presentation was a quick overview of what is defined as 'evidence-based'. The reason for the workshop is so that CAC and Staff can become knowledgeable about a method that produces outcomes. If a program doesn't generate outcomes, then why even think about funding it. Lisa Williams is attending today's meeting to hear what the CAC wants in terms of training.

Nate also announced that since that past CAC meeting, Lisa Williams has been awarded her doctorate degree (Ph.D.). What Lisa has engaged in over the last couple of years for the Children's Services Council regarding evidence-based programs has had major implications on their work and has also received national recognition.

Presentation by Lisa Williams, Ph.D.:

At the May 14, 2009 CAC Regular Meeting, she did a brief introductory presentation on defining what an 'evidence-based' program is from a national perspective, and then how the Children's Services Council (CSC) defines an 'evidence-based' program. The Children's Services Council's perspective is in alignment with the national perspective except regarding the issue of stringency. Some evidence-based programs are very leniently defined and some are very stringently defined. The Children's Services Council's committee was formed to look at programs overall for the CSC and for the community. The CSC took a very stringent definition of what is 'evidence-based' and they came up with their own criteria and began rating seven-hundred (700) to eight-hundred (800) programs.

In addition to evidence-based criteria, the Children's Services Council does a lot of work using the logic-model. Lisa suggested that information on the logic-model would also be helpful to the CAC.

Lisa will e-mail the PowerPoint presentation she used at the May 14, 2009 CAC meeting to David Rafaidus so he can forward it to via e-mail to all.

Comments/Discussion/Questions:

Nate Nichols suggested that the seventeen (17) CAC Matrix & Work Plan service categories be part of this conversation since Lisa Williams is not familiar with them. However, the workshop on "Understanding Evidence-Based Practice" will not be driven by the 17 service categories, though there is a relationship between them.

Channell Wilkins noted that what the CAC and Staff want to do is to step back and talk about the evidence-based workshop separate from what the CAC is doing. The objective of the workshop is to acquire the concept knowledge. We don't need to try to make the categories fit in. The workshop will be about a pure model, and the CAC and Staff will determine how to productively use the information to guide them.

Dr. Richard Galeta noted the history of the FAA contracts is that the agencies literally chose their own outcomes and they were funded. Now the CAC is trying to develop the Matrix to develop evidence-based outcomes, and that will then come back to funding.

Nate Nichols pointed out that using the 'evidence-based' model could cause some anxiety on several levels. To begin with, agencies have been used to doing business as usual and that doesn't always produce favorable outcomes. Also, there is not really a whole appreciation for data and data collection. Most 501(c)3 agencies don't even know how to look at the data and interpret the data. When they do, they don't use it continually to improve their services. The other thing is that most evidence-based programs are not cheap. Evidence-based programs are more expensive on the front-end and the return on the investment is not immediate. But with fidelity, the outcomes will appear. Also, not every program is going to be evidence-based.

Barbara Jacobowitz stated that the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) has expressed concern about some of the contract outcome measures. Some of the Financially Assisted Agency (FAA) outcomes were only what she would call 'minor process'. To say that 'one-hundred percent (100%) of the people who come through our door will receive an intake' is what they want to get away from.

David Rafaidus would also like the evidence-based criteria to be shown to be applicable to the state, the county and to smaller geographic levels. That would be helpful to the CAC to make funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. And when it comes to Staff, it would be nice to have the same thought process used by all County departments.

Nate Nichols clarified that the workshop is not going to be drilling down to the levels of state, county and geographic levels. The Children's Services Council is willing to share their evidence-based information without charge. However, the CSC does not want to get into doing the work for the CAC, state, county, local or federal entities.

Channel Wilkins said that from his point of view, if we have the evidence and validation, and are pushing forward, it is our job to push back and to say 'we can show you the accountability, we can show you the research, and this is why we are doing it this way'. If what a Financially Assisted Agency (FAA) is doing is good practice with solid research behind it, then we need to show the Children's Services Council and others that there is a different way to do it. If we have good practice and solid research, we need to be advocates for it. That's how systems are changed.

Lisa Williams thinks that the evidence-based process should be presented at the workshop so that the CAC and Staff can adopt it for FAA programs. She will use examples to help show how the process works.

Channell Wilkins asked if the Children's Services Council has been able to pull out from some of the national models the difference between the evidence-based pieces and those folks whose process was totally tied to the character of the staff and individuals. When there are certain types of charismatic leaders in a model, then replication is very hard. The process really dictates the outcomes as much as the design because of who they are.

Lisa Williams said that there are times when the success of a program can be the function of who is doing the program. There are some programs where, when interviewing potential staff, candidates must have certain critical qualities in order for the program to work. However the programs that truly fit the evidence-based criteria are programs that have been implemented across the country, gone through numerous randomized control policies, and replicated with positive results.

Barbara Jacobowitz believes that evidence-based criteria and workshop are important for several reasons: 1) The CAC has always felt that they haven't had that much of an influence on what is being funded and the goals trying to be reached; 2) Evidence-based criteria is the underpinning for the Matrix the CAC is developing; and 3) The entire CAC must really understand what is 'evidence-based' in order to make the connections to the FAA programs.

Nate Nichols thinks a good beginning for the workshop would be an examination of the logic model and the theory of change. After that, then the evidence-based criteria can be intensely taught with repetition. It will take repetition during the workshop in order for individuals to understand the concept of 'evidence-based'. It is the concept that is most important for everyone to understand and retain. The workshop should be kept non-technical so it will be understandable to everyone. Once everyone grasps the 'evidence-based' concepts, then the terms can be brought in.

Channell Wilkins pointed out that engaging attendees in participatory learning is very important. Doing an exercise where the theory of change has to be applied will help people to comprehend the concepts. The seventeen (17) categories on the Matrix can be provided to Lisa Williams because it would be helpful if she could pull some examples from those 17.

David Rafaidus said that the workshop would be purely educational. Lisa would have to get into the definition of terms to be used so that everyone will be on the same page. He also needs to see how evidence-based outcomes relate to the Health and Human Services Element because there has to be some accountability of what the CAC is doing and is presenting to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Barbara Jacobowitz thinks it is very important to allow the evidence-based workshop to be in its pure form. The CAC has a tendency to go off track constantly. The CAC has to know how we are going to be using the information to go forward.

David Rafaidus suggested that Lisa Williams devise what she thinks is a workable outline and present it to the CAC Chair and to Community Services Administration. Then the outline could perhaps be focused or fine-tuned.

Channell Wilkins said that he is very familiar with evidence-based outcomes. He believes the evidence-based workshop is in line with the CAC Matrix and Work Plan. When the CAC and CSD Staff present their FAA recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), we want to tell them what the contracted goals are and that they will produce results. When we talk about longevity, there are proxy outcomes for that. If you know a person is sober for six (6) months, then you know the proxy outcome is that the person will be more likely to remain sober for 'x' period of time and only recidivate 'y' numbers of times. Lisa Williams can begin to educate the CAC on how evidence-based outcomes occur and why it is a good return on investment. We would have accountable and measurable goals when those programs are looked at. We would need to see clear process benchmarks that show the program is functioning well or is not functioning well. Also, using the Glades as an example, there is something a little bit different about the Glades from the eastern communities, so the overall fidelity of the model would be adhered to but some of the process would be refined to meet the needs of the Glades.

Nate Nichols noted that Palm Beach County has a very diverse population. There are some uniqueness's that can be addressed, but that is a much more advanced level of what is evidence-based. The baseline is to understand 'evidence-based' criteria before you get to a place of modifying it. The first thing that agencies will want to do is to adjust the criteria to meet their needs and that would be the scary part. The idea of having some sort of outline that structures what is to be presented is good. He said he doesn't want Lisa Williams asked to do auxiliary work.

Channell Wilkins, Dr. Richard Galeta, Barbara Jacobowitz and David Rafaidus jointly assured that Lisa Williams will not be asked to do additional work.

Dr./Deputy Patrick J. Halperin said that basically what the CAC and CSD Staff are asking for is a pre-plan plan. In other words, 'how do we start to go where we're going'? Then the actual planning process can begin. That is why we need the evidence-based workshop.

Houston Tate noted that one application of the evidence-based practice the Office of Community Revitalization sees is 'transformation'. When you talk now about not having funding, you're talking about changing the perception of communities. He is hoping evidence-based programs will allow for more community revitalization. There is a direct correlation between how informed communities are and what government spends on that community.

Barbara Jacobowitz asked Lisa Williams if within her work she has actually stratified prevention versus actual treatment? The reason why she is asking is because it has always been a question, especially in the AIDS arena, in terms of prevention. Can you actually prove that an individual who learns safe-sex techniques did not become infected ten (10) years down the road? Is there a difference in the way the evidence-based process is used in prevention versus the rest?

Lisa Williams answered that it really depends on who is researching the topic and how they define prevention outcomes. Each program will define it themselves. There is no general definition for prevention.

Channell Wilkins added that there are some areas that use as a proxy outcome ‘the purchase and use of prophylactics and preventative products across time’. We know that given the increased utilization of prophylactics, there will be less people who get AIDS. It is an excellent proxy if indeed those numbers using prophylactics continue to increase. Outcomes sometimes have a strange scientific relationship, but it is a logical and reasonable proxy.

Dr./Deputy Patrick J. Halperin pointed out that what Channell Wilkins calls “proxy” and Nate Nichols calls “indicator”, he calls “variables”. We need to sit down and determine a dictionary of terms that will be used. Otherwise, people will be talking about the same thing but won’t know it. He thinks the lexicology needs to be determined before the workshop and be the initial part of the workshop. Also, the evidence-based workshop is a knowledge base. A model that the attendees can relate to the evidence-based process is necessary. Otherwise, the participants are going to be lost.

Nate Nichols suggested that the workshop be a half-day of focused conversation, because Lisa Williams cannot do multiple sessions. The reality is how much can people take away at any one point in time. If the participants take away a few nibblets of the concept, then the workshop will have accomplished its goal. Then it is up to others to look at how to advance that workshop information to add strategies to go forward.

Channell Wilkins said that he would like to get the PowerPoint presentation that Lisa Williams prepared and then have the opportunity to meet with her. At the half-day workshop, Lisa will deliver the baseline knowledge about what is evidence-base. Then the Community Services Staff will continue to develop that transfer of knowledge until the CAC is very comfortable with it. Lisa Williams may be asked to come back to add more information about what is evidence-based.

Nate Nichols responded that he and Lisa Williams are open to coming back to present more knowledge on evidence-based criteria.

Dr. Richard Galeta stated that he is appreciative and very pleased with the offer from Nate Nichols and Lisa Williams to do the evidence-based workshop and for their willingness to share their information.

Nate Nichols asked to clarify who the audience will be. Is the audience truly only CAC members and Community Services Staff? When he thinks about the CAC meeting notices that go out, there is a host of other people who also attend CAC meetings. How many people are anticipated to attend the workshop?

Channell Wilkins responded that CAC meetings are open to the public. Agencies will show up for the workshop when they see the topic is on ‘Understanding Evidence-Based Practice’. He suggested that none of the Financially Assisted Agencies (FAAs) should be used for workshop examples.

David Rafaidus relayed that he has previously discussed the subject of participation at CAC meetings with Staff Attorney Tammy Fields. For purposes of the workshop, the only conversation would involve Lisa Williams and CAC Members, Ex-Officios, and Community

Services Staff. However, the CAC agenda must have an opportunity for “public comments” from the rest of the audience. He expects twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) attendees.

Lisa Williams stated that the Children’s Services Council already has a 3-hour evidence-based and logic model training program that all of their providers are required to attend. She was thinking that she will use a copy of that 3-hour training with some other things imbedded in it so that the workshop will also include information on the logic model.

Summary of Information on the Workshop:

Workshop Title: “UNDERSTANDING EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE”

Location: CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL

2300 High Ridge Road

Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Meeting Room on 1st Floor

Date: THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

(This workshop will be the September CAC Regular Meeting.)

Time: 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 NOON

4. OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 4A: Member Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Houston Tate announced that the Office of Community Revitalization is moving now from their regular CCRT meetings to the Community Connection Meetings. At those meetings, the County Commissioner for that District will be at the meeting to provide information to the community residents and to answer questions. The next component will be a mini-workshop by the University of Florida on ‘how to manage your money during these difficult times’. Commissioner Shelley Vana, District 3, will be at the first CCRT Community Connections Meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Vista Center; Room VC-1E-58, 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida. The next Community Connections meeting will be in October 2009 and County Commissioner Jeff Koons will discuss foreclosures and dealing with abandoned homes.

AGENDA ITEM 4B: Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Lisa Williams announced that on February 25 & 26, 2010 there will be an ‘Evidence-Based Program’ Conference. There will be national experts on evidence-based programs covering a range of subjects including juvenile justice, teen pregnancy, youth development and early childhood. The session on February 25th will be in the evening at the Marriott Hotel; 630 Clearwater Park Road; West Palm Beach, Florida. The all-day session on February 26th will be held at the West Palm Beach Convention Center; 650 Okeechobee Boulevard; West Palm Beach, Florida. The registration fee will be \$100. Further information will be distributed to the CAC at a later date.

AGENDA ITEM 4C: Good News Item(s)

- None

AGENDA ITEM 4D: Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- MAPP and Health Department
- ‘Working in the Sunshine’ Workshop (Tammy Fields) (October 8, 2009)

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Richard Galeta called the meeting adjourned since there was no CAC member quorum.

Future Meetings:

CAC Regular Meetings: September 10, 2009; October 8, 2009

CAC Executive or Reserved Meetings: September 24, 2009; October 22, 2009

Minutes approved by Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services Chair Dr. Richard Galeta on _____, **2009**.

Signature: Dr. Richard Galeta, Chair