

September 16, 2014

Group #1 (Dane): Focus on Children Services

- 1. In looking at the key need and gap areas that have been identified so far, are there any, from your perspective, that are missing? If so, what are they?**
 - Youth get to middle school/high school with mental health issues that are unaddressed; they are slipping through the cracks.
 - Can we increase/improve our connection with schools?
 - Comprehensive mental health screening.
 - Do we have resources to follow up?
 - Possibly increase school staff education/awareness through the *Kognito* referral process (currently used by PVUSD), knowing how to interact with students once mental health issues are identified as early as elementary school.
 - Integrate resources with school for families, going out to homes.
 - Trauma informed services of care including judges, law enforcement.
 - Mental Health collaboration with special education, alternative schools, and general education programs, regardless if there is IEP status.
 - Services to undocumented families are very limited; more focus needed with parent issues.
 - What support is available to service providers to prevent burn out and retain workers?
 - Access for high risk youth prior to escalating into juvenile placement.
 - Need for more dual diagnosis mental health/substance abuse services.
 - Resources to sustain evidence based practices.
 - Training and ongoing discussion for service providers regarding cultural competency.

- 2. Which need or gap areas are most important?**
- AND**
- 3. Which need or gap areas should we focus on working on first?**
 - Education, training and support for educators, service, and support staff regarding cultural competence, fidelity to evidence based practices, screening and referral, awareness of community resources.
 - Early identification of mental health needs, and related family support, integrated in the schools. Working in partnership with schools/students regardless of special education status. Services for escalating youth.
 - Data evaluation for sustainability; utilize data.

- 4. Are there specific need or gap areas that may be unique or different for South County.**

All of the above are relevant to South County.