

WORKGROUP ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH
July 6, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

THOSE PRESENT

Fred Polce, GCHD	Alicia Streets, GCDSS	Amber King, Wellspring
Heather Hanline, Dove Center	Amy Ritchie, GCHD	Heather Cooper, GCHD
Jennifer Brenneman, GCHD	Jennifer Lee-Steckman, GCHD	John Corbin, GCHD
Susan Mills, GCHD	Laura Robinson	Dr. Karl Schwalm
Sabrina Tasker, GRMC		

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

This is a significant problem in Garrett County. The Dove Center is a domestic assault program and deals with trauma across the lifespan. Nearly all clients that go to the Dove Center have an addiction problem and the children are borderline to full blown neglect. This affects schooling, homework, no extracurricular activity, etc.

Partners have been working together to combat stigma, but it is hard to change attitudes. The community needs to come together and quit shaming the addict.

Heather and the Dove Center deal with the aftermath and Alicia and the Department of Social Services deals with the situation in progress. Three to four years ago DSS case numbers were at approximately 90 in care, attributed to drug abuse. Currently there are approximately 47-48 in care, so the numbers have leveled out, but are still high. Substance abuse is the number one reason for child abuse and the proof of neglect is clear. When there is a drug bust, their numbers of children in care usually go up. They are doing less reuniting than in years past.

How can this workgroup help?

- Educate through the libraries to reach homeschool families
- Early Sunday morning radio program
- Newspaper
- Approach schools
- Reinforce to families that if parents are denied services, they can access the Health Department
- Susan will visit DSS to review the services offered by the Health Department
- Heather and Dr. Schwalm will meet with Thomas Vose from the library to discuss how to reach the homeschool community
- Heather and Alicia will follow up with WKHJ and the early Sunday morning radio program
- Educate children of the signs of abuse and how to report it

At the August meeting, the topic will be teen pregnancy with Heather Cooper and at the September meeting we can discuss ideas that we may have come up with from the information given in this meeting and devise a plan for this group to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Brenneman

Notes from meeting:

Garrett County Trauma-Informed Care Summit Scheduled in August ^

John Corbin -MDH-9:24 AM

Connor is now with Economic Development. The spots also run in short clips throughout the day, not just in the morning session. We have also turned them into videos for our agency (with permission) to run on web, email, and social media.

John Corbin -MDH-9:30 AM

We've previously had good success with online training (pre-recorded) for law enforcement - particularly narcan - convenient for them to do at their own pace, and we get a record of completion.