



SOC Council - Project LAUNCH | Meeting Minutes | April 7, 2021

Agenda	Synopsis of Discussion	Action – Responsible Person
Welcome	SOC Co-Chair, Angela Brown welcomed 62 people from 34 organizations to the combined meeting of the SOC Council and the Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Council.	
Minutes	The minutes were posted in the chat room and approved. Send additions or corrections to SOC Project Director at mmerz@stlmhb.com	
<p>System of Care</p> <p>Juvenile Justice Initiative</p>	<p>New Members: Angela Brown welcomed new member Christine Patterson, NAMI St. Louis. Rene Murph welcomed 5 members from the Parent Advisory Council: Cheryl Ford, Paulette Brooks, Dorothea Washington, Theresa Williams, and Tawana Green.</p> <p>We celebrated Al Eason’s retirement from the MO Dept. of Mental Health. Angela and Rene shared words of gratitude for this leadership and dedication to the System of Care for children and families in St. Louis. Council members shared words of gratitude and praise in the chat box and on signs held up on their computer screens as Celebration music played on. Al shared how much his involvement in the System of Care has meant to him over the course of his career.</p> <p>Mary Ann announced that the St. Louis City and St. Louis County Juvenile Justice Initiative, Integrated Family Treatment funding agreement has been approved.</p> <p><u>What is it:</u> The purpose of the Juvenile Justice Fund is to improve coordination between mental health and juvenile justice to better serve youth involved with these two systems. The funds are authorized by a line item within the budget of the Missouri Department of Mental Health, specifically earmarked for use by Missouri’s juvenile and family courts for provision of mental health services at the local, community-based level, for children who come to their attention. It is approximately \$100,000 per year.</p>	

<p>Youth Advocate Program</p>	<p><u>The Need:</u> The DMH Juvenile Justice Fund fills a gap that has impeded youth serving agencies from concurrently treating the parent/caregiver. This proposal is for juvenile justice-involved youth whose parents may not be clients of the Community Mental Health Center. One of the goals of SOC grant – to build infrastructure to bridge gap between children’s MH services and adult services. Impedes treating family as a unit.</p> <p><u>The Partnership:</u> The funds will flow from DMH to BJC Behavioral Health and Hopewell Center, and then subcontracted to Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis. As other agencies become IFTM providers within the System of Care, they will be eligible for subcontracts from the Juvenile Justice Fund.</p> <p>Thank you –Al Eason, Serena Muhammad, Candace Hammel, Claudine Allen, James Owen, Ben Burkemper, and Kathryn Herman. I appreciate the hard work that everyone has put in to make integrated family treatment a real possibility for families in our service area.</p> <p>Mary Ann gave an update on the Youth Advocate Program (YAP)</p> <p><u>What is it?</u> Youth Advocate Programs is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Pennsylvania that works deep in communities to keep young people and their families together and safely home, out of institutional placement. Founded in 1975, YAP operates over 120 programs in 26 states, and Washington DC, serving over 19,000 youth annually. YAP is a pioneer in juvenile justice reform.</p> <p>The SOC along with our partners at the city and county family courts and Deaconess Foundation are working to bring a 2-year pilot of the YAP to St. Louis. The SOC Council voted to provide oversight to the pilot project. The SOC Network of Practice, the partners working to implement the SAMSHA funded project – FSP and IFTM – will act as the steering committee for the pilot.</p> <p>The YAP team on the ground will include a full-time program director, p.t. admin, and 6-7 p.t youth advocates/mentors. The approach is intensive wraparound services and advocacy, averaging 10-15 hours per week over 6 months for each family. Except to serve 30 youth and their families per year.</p> <p>YAP is investing in the first year of the pilot program and Deaconess Foundation has committed to funding year 2. We have met with Scot Odum, Director of the Division of Youth Service and Joan Rogers, Director of Children’s Division to engage their support for the project. They are currently reviewing MOU to become partners and to help sustain the YAP in St. Louis if the pilot is found to be effective.</p> <p>Deaconess hopes to start the program this summer.</p>	
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<p>SOC Expansion Project</p>	<p>Mary Ann gave an update on the SOC project. MIMH is leading a formative evaluation of 27 families served by the project to review the referral process for connecting families to the Integrated Family Treatment Model. We are implementing strategies to increase referrals from the courts and Children’s Division. The Population of Focus has been clarified to include youth at risk for juvenile justice involvement from school districts within the Promise Zone. The Consultants for the Strategic Financing Plan have been secured: the Community Innovation and Action Center at UMSL and 2 consultants from the National Technical and Training Center for Systems of Care. The Parent Advisory Council is forming and continues to seek new members. The Family Support Network is a group of families served by the VCR Family Support Partners. BHN is seeking caregivers for a focus group on educational materials for parents/caregivers of transition aged youth.</p>	<p>Refer parents/caregivers interested in the SOC-PAC to Jawana Hammonds jhammonds@visionforchildren.org</p> <p>Contact Shannon Smith about the focus group at ssmith@bhnstl.org</p>
<p>Project LAUNCH</p>	<p>Nathan Ivy presented the following topics. See ppt slides in the meeting packet on the SOC website for more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the Joint Council meetings • Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day • ASQ Cohort Update • Partner Highlights • Café inspired conversation 	
<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Sanaria Sulaiman thanked Al Eason for his leadership and service. The meeting was adjourned at 11am.</p>	<p>Next Meeting is June 2, 2021.</p>