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.