

EIDBI Advisory Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

April 24, 2020

Members respond: How COVID-19 is affecting us

1. Provider: We implemented telehealth quickly. Families are reporting successes, minimal regression in clients. We suspended in-person services and focused on safety protocols and bought supplies—masks, gloves for staff and families. We have MD on our board and we have hired an MD consultant to review safety protocols. We are focused on safety of staff and clients. Looking to obtain testing for staff and clients when that is available.
2. One member's daughter, 24, lost her day program. The first two weeks were very rough. We do not currently have a PCA—we can't find one. I reduced my work hours. Things worked better after first two weeks. Daughter has anxiety.
3. A second provider says some clients have experienced regression, behaviors not seen for two years.
4. Some families find it hard to work via telehealth.
5. One parent has had mixed success, doing telemedicine for OT. Child with ASD is 9. Brother is helping—and this is a highlight of their day. We are juggling like all families. Screen learning can be overwhelming; kids need breaks.
6. A third provider says they have been able to provide services to about 90 percent of families who want services. The organization is billing about 90 percent of the hours as they billed before the stay-at-home order. They had telemedicine before the pandemic. Some families only want one consistent worker to come to their home, and we have honored that. Staff also want to minimize the number of different families they work with. The observation feature of EIDBI has been helpful. We were able to put devices in families' homes quickly. Some families have wanted more services because all their kids are home from school, and they are making good progress. This remote delivery of services has been a significant learning experience and the provider hopes to expand this when the stay-at-home order is over.
7. A parent transitioned to tele-therapy for a teenager on spectrum. Teen has initiated chat himself on video chats with therapist. He has learned a new self-help technique.
8. A provider says that one positive is that providing tele-therapy has provided us a great method on providing therapy and ensuring what we are providing fits within the natural contexts, environments, and routines of the families. It has been helpful to see kiddos within their home environment which provides great data for decision-making for family-centered care planning.
9. At the Department of Health, a member has been reassigned to working coronavirus technical assistance for health care providers and facilities. Providers, feel free to reach out to the Department of Health with questions on infection control, testing of staff or clients, isolation protocols or anything else. There's a public hotline as well as one for school/child care.

Updates

See the PowerPoint for this meeting about updates on EIDBI services and numbers served.

School/EIDBI Focus Groups

See the PowerPoint for this meeting for the presentation.

Comments from members:

1. Could DHS and MDE issue a memorandum of guidance/memorandum of understanding to encourage schools to allow providers into schools. Wisconsin has this and it was helpful. Response: We know of the Wisconsin memo, and have created a Minnesota draft memo. Our leadership is too busy with Covid now, but this is our plan.
2. Some schools just do not like having outsiders come in. Response: We hope to do a number of pilot projects to show teams experiencing success, but we need to recognize that students are learning from home now and that is a big adjustment by itself.

Wilder Learning Collaborative Report

Emma Connell and Amanda Peterson, Wilder Foundation

See PowerPoint presentation. Member comments below:

1. One provider really wants to keep the momentum of the collaborative going because of the translation of data to applications with children and families. Echoed by parent/member.
2. One advocate uses data visualizations in her agency and finds them valuable
3. Can you share the weblink to find all of those visuals? Emma Connell's response: We'll work with DHS to ensure all of the visuals are available in an accessible place! I'll also note that we're currently finishing up some translations of the Pathways document into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali -- we'll be sure to have these accessible to everyone as well.
4. from EIDBI Team: Here is the link to the Pathway <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6751-ENG>
5. Are you collecting info on average pay for BCBA providers from different states?
Another member: I think average, range, and correlating experience/education would be important parameters to gather.
A third member: I know the average pay of BCBA's was presented at California ABA and the national ABA conferences last year or the year before but good to get an update if there is not already one
6. Response: We didn't include average pay question but we could definitely discuss adding that.
7. From EIDBI Team: Here is the link to the medical dx and educational documents: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6751M-ENG>
8. We also have the journey mapping flyers translated into Somali, Oromo, Spanish and Hmong if you would like to share those with families you work with.
9. From Emma Connell at Wilder Research: Parent members, contact me if you want to participate in a journey mapping interview: emma.connell@wilder.org!
10. Out of curiosity, how many people have responded to this? Response from Emma: We've completed about 65 interviews with parents, and have several more scheduled in the coming weeks
11. When doing the journey mapping interviews, is data being collected about demographics including location? Response, yes, demographics and location. We do have people outside the metro area.
12. Haha nice job!
13. That is fantastic, thanks for doing that!

14. Yay! Thank you

Resources

1. Nicole Berning: My presentation on EIDBI also included strategies for families could be implementing right now during the stay at home orders to manage behaviors and distance learning.
2. Is there a way to make it easier for families to choose a provider on MHCP directory page? Response: Go through Autism Portal, under interventions and services, and service providers. Hard to recommend to families. Could it say, "Find a provider"? Response: DHS website is limited. We recommend using MNHelp.info website, which has more info. Use standard keywords, such as "autism" "CMDE" "EIDBI"
3. EIDBI staff: Please let us know if there are other trainings or webinars that we could be hosting for providers, families or others at this time.
4. <https://mn.gov/autism/intervention-and-services/service-providers/>
5. The EIDBI team rocks!!! Thanks for everything you do to help families and providers. What an amazingly supportive group. Second member: Ditto!