



AspireMN

An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

~ Pass this to colleagues and staff who would enjoy the updates, and encourage them to sign up to receive future updates by emailing kanderson@aspiremn.org. ~

April 14, 2018

FIRST FRIDAY – updates and ideas to share

MN Legislative Advocacy – Action Needed on the following two priorities

Children’s Residential Mental Health Treatment is a 2018 priority. HF3134/SF2663 fills the current gap in funding for the current biennium in anticipation of the loss of Medicaid funds for children’s residential mental health. Committee chairs are increasingly commenting that “there is no money” in this year’s supplemental budget for additional spending. **All legislators need to hear** that funding our children’s residential is a critical priority that must be funded this session. Please contact all legislators who represent your service locations and communicate that HF3134/SF2663 are critical state priorities. Enter your address [here](#) to find contact information for your legislators. Your AspireMN staff are glad to support you in connecting with your legislators, feel free to contact us for assistance.

Support integrity of the MN Medicaid program. This Is Medicaid, a broad coalition advocating in support of Medicaid has done an incredible job of opposing a bill that would impose Medicaid work requirements – a harmful requirement that would cause over 20,000 Minnesotans a year to lose access to health care once fully implemented. **Your organization is invited** to sign a letter opposing this legislation. The goal is to have 200 MN organizations signed on. To date, 120 Minnesota organizations representing doctors, hospitals, nurses, chemical health, mental health, disability organizations have already signed on to oppose this harmful proposal. [Read the letter and sign your Minnesota organization on at this link.](#)

Additional advocacy updates and action alerts will be forthcoming, please stay tuned. Senate and House HHS Omnibus language is expected to be posted soon and will provide opportunity to respond to the priorities of each body. AspireMN is leading and partnering on a number of legislative items, all developed or named as priorities by the full association, your association’s 2018 legislative agenda is posted at [AspireMN](#).

FEDERAL UPDATES

The following was distributed 4/13 by the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities:
HHS Releases Information Memo on Family First Prevention Services Act

On April 12, the Administration for Children, Youth and Families released its first official communication about the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA). There is an [Information Memo](#), which provides an overview of the new law, and appendices that provide some additional details. [Appendix B](#) focuses on the Time-Limited Foster Care Prevention Programs and Services. [Appendix C](#) provides information on the Limitations on Title IV-E Foster Care Payments for Placements that are not Foster Family Homes. In addition, the memo included [Appendix D](#), which provides a list of the names and contact information of the Regional Program Managers for the Children's Bureau.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTRATION is OPEN for the AspireMN June 14-15 Member Meeting - Register for the meeting [here](#). To reserve a room at the (new!) [PierB](#) Hotel in Duluth please call 218-481-8888 and refer to Leader #56408 or AspireMN. Our block rates are \$144 City View, \$164 Harbor View, block closes May 28.

Final agenda to be announced, and, following recent discussions with health systems, rate analysis, and legislative interest in data on impact and outcomes, the June agenda will include a number of voices and seek deep member engagement on approaches to developing and delivering vital service outcomes. This is a meeting you'll want to be *sure to attend*.

Aspirational Coffee Talk, Friday, May 18 from 9:30-11:30am - ***Working with families of young children (birth-age 5)*** The goal of this talk is to increase our AspireMN community's understanding of appropriate strategies and interventions that support child development, parenting resilience and the parent-child relationship. The talk includes an overview of parenting approaches and evidenced-based models by SDC clinicians and staff who work with families with young children. Individuals will walk away with knowing how support for families with young children differs from other approaches.

Hosted by St. David's Center, 8800 Hwy 7, Suite 200, St. Louis Park, MN 55426, Located on the 2nd floor of Bremer Bank Bldg.

Please note – the Aspirational Coffee Talk series was developed intentionally to reach out to staff who typically do not participate in AspireMN meetings and who can benefit from the content and the time to network with other colleagues. All are welcome!

Save the Dates – 2018 Member Meetings and Conferences

- Member meeting: Leadership Retreat – September 13-14, Madden's Resort in Brainerd
- Youth Worker Conference October 8-9, Cragun's Resort in Brainerd
- Annual Membership Meeting – November 8-9, Radisson in St Paul

NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

CASCW is honored to award **Mary Regan, MSW, LICSW** with the **[2018 Child Welfare Leadership Award!](#)** This award recognizes the statewide impact that Mary Regan has had on the landscape of Minnesota's child welfare field over the past twenty years. Recently retired from AspireMN (previously known as the Minnesota Council on Child Caring Agencies - MCCCCA), Mary dedicated her professional career to the service of children and youth. During her time in the field, Mary advocated for children and youth who experienced significant trauma and difficulty in the face of complex needs, gaps in services, and unmet permanency. She has made it her mission to utilize research to inform policy and practice, while also leveraging practice and policy to inform emerging research. Mary's nimbleness in engaging people and collaborating across communities, service settings, and interdisciplinary fields, significantly contributed to the changing landscape in child welfare and improved services. Her tenacity and fierceness as an advocate for children served through Minnesota's private child welfare provider network has forever changed the lives of children, youth and families across the state.

Invitation – host a booth at the Aug 27 MH Day at the Fair: The Minnesota State Advisory Council on Mental Health, in collaboration with NAMI Minnesota, will host Mental Health Awareness at the State Fair on August 27, 2018. This is an opportunity to promote awareness, spread information, and engage over 110,000 people around mental health. If your organization is interested in hosting a booth (8 am – 6 pm, Aug 27) please contact Beth Ringer at bringer@namimn.org

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Crisis Text Line - Crisis Text Line is offering Text-based suicide prevention services across Minnesota. People who text **MN to 741741** will be connected with a counselor who will help defuse the crisis and connect the texter to local resources. Crisis Text Line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additional resources to promote Crisis Text are posted at [AspireMN](#).

Introduction to Council on Accreditation (COA) Webinar – This free 90 minute webinar, April 17, 1:30-3PM is for anyone who is new to COA or interested in the accreditation process. AspireMN is a sponsoring organization and members receive a discount to be COA accredited. [Register here](#).

Aspirational Thinking – a point of view by Rachel Peterson, Assistant Director, AspireMN

On my second day on the job I attended an Emerging Practice Committee meeting. About halfway through I flipped my notebook open to the page I had dedicated to all the acronyms I was learning: CMS, PRTF, CTSS, etc. I jotted down a new one and felt a little nudge from Karen Kingsley who was sitting next to me. It was Karen's second day on the job at LSS and her first AspireMN committee meeting, as well. She slid her notebook up alongside mine, pointing at a page titled "ACRONYMS." We laughed and I felt reassured knowing I wasn't alone on my journey up the learning-curve.

Over the course of these past few weeks I've learned a great deal, and one thing has become especially clear to me: AspireMN *IS* its members, and those members share a deep dedication to improving the lives of children across the state of Minnesota. While there are, indeed, a lot of acronyms to learn in this role, those acronyms are simply time-savers. There is a sense of urgency in this work - an urgency to reach, to serve, and to support children and families - and I am truly inspired by the legacy and passion of AspireMN's members.

Inspiration fosters aspiration, so here are a few of my aspirations for the coming weeks, months and years:

- I aspire to serve and support you, the members, to the very best of my abilities every day.
- I aspire to not only continue learning in this role, but to contribute actively to the discourse that drives the field forward.
- I aspire to offer the same welcoming hospitality to others that I've been shown by this community.
- I aspire to learn ALL the acronyms.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be joining an organization with such a robust history and that is made up of so many thoughtful and welcoming people. As I mentioned at the Member Meeting in March, I feel very much at home here. So, TYEAILFTSMOYIDIJ! (Thank You Everyone And I Look Forward To Seeing Many Of You In Duluth In June!)

First Fridays will be shared monthly with members. Contributions are welcome. Please send your ideas for content to kanderson@aspiremn.org.

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