



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. ~

May 4, 2018

FIRST FRIDAY – updates and ideas to share

MN Legislative Advocacy

As we anticipate the assembly of a conference committee to design a final funding bill (or bills) to propose to the Governor, there was significant activity on the House and Senate floor, and ongoing negotiation on key legislative provisions. Of note this Friday:

Foster Sibling Bill of Rights – As part of the QPI-MN leadership, AspireMN has supported the Foster Sibling Bill of Rights and led by the MN Youth Leadership Council to significant success this session. Notably this week, two MN YLC leaders joined Rep Bennett on the House floor to be part of their bill passing with a unanimous vote of support. Read Rep Bennett's press release [here](#). Youth leaders shared reflections on their inspiration to develop the Foster Sibling Bill of Rights, shared in the Aspirational Thinking section of this update.

Mental Health Workforce Bill – This proposal to streamline workforce requirements primarily focused on adult mental health services, and, paving the way for the DHS-led Uniform Standards work, passed off the Senate floor with an “all green” vote of support. It will be heard on the House floor Monday.

Take Action for Children's Residential – This week's announcement on the designation of the great majority of MN's Children's Residential Treatment as IMDs has created greater urgency for the passage of this year's AspireMN priority, funding for May-June, 2019 for Children's Residential. Read the DHS update on the issue [here](#). Please contact your legislators at this critical time and **ask your legislators to support the House position for Children's Residential funding**. 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.

Events & Updates:

- AspireMN had several representatives at a Federal Department of Labor Roundtable discussion this week to provide DOL greater context and content on parity challenges experienced in MN. We continue to work with partners on all fronts to seek mechanisms to achieve parity for mental health care.

- Blue Cross Blue Shield provided updates at their Thought Leader Advisory group, including:
 - BCBS is implementing a new communications system and will post their bulletin updating providers on key items on the first of each month on their online system.
 - Included in bulletin updates will be contract changes to help point providers to noteworthy items without sending out whole new contracts for review
 - There is a “call campaign” for recoupment of overpayments that were announced last year – the intent had been to give providers a long lead time to settle overpayment and now the intent is for payment withhold to begin May 1 with a process of retaining a portion of provider’s payments until the recoupment is complete.
 - Soon BCBS will have Medicaid claims handled by Amerigroup (of parent group Anthem) and will include a new process for providers to utilize.

Don’t Miss This!

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.

The (draft) [June agenda](#) includes 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* with your organization’s evaluation and data experts.

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!

Youth Worker Conference: Be The Exception - Call for Presenters! (Oct 8-9, Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd)

We are seeking presentations that will **challenge and encourage professional growth** for youth workers as they provide direct care to youth. This year’s theme is ***Be the Exception*** – as youth workers make a daily difference in the lives of clients, colleagues and organizations/communities. **For more information** please contact Rachel Peterson at rpeterson@aspiremn.org.

Building Bridges Initiative Training – (spots are limited)



To learn more about The Training Institutes, all the Pre-Institutes Sessions and registration, please visit The Training Institutes [website](#).

If you have any questions about registration for this event, please contact training institute event coordinators at: traininginstitutes@ssw.umaryland.edu.

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

Aspirational Thinking – a collection of perspectives, from the MN Youth Leadership Council on their inspiration to create the Sibling Bill of Rights

I chose to help create the sibling bill of rights to help any and all foster youth who have siblings. I personally don't have siblings but I know many youth who do. I have talked with them and some still don't even have contact with their siblings. They described their experiences as hard and rough. They felt as if they didn't have a purpose some days because they grew up with each other. They lose who they are and most of the time they never did anything wrong. Their siblings were all they had and they were stripped of them. – Youth Leader from Bemidji

What inspired me to help create the Sibling Bill of Rights was when I went to a national foster youth conference I learned that a lot of other states already have this bill in place. I feel that Minnesota lacks a lot of rights in regards to youth in the foster care system, these youth need to feel safe and aware that people are working to make this system better for them. I feel it is so important that these young kids who are sometimes even unaware of what is happening and why still have family that they can talk to. To be removed from your home and not be allowed to talk to anyone about what you're feeling the sadness the anger can be devastating. None of these situations are ideal but I feel it is crucial to have something in place that lets youth know that we do care. – Youth Leader from Willmar

Family connections are important and we need family connections. When you are snatched out of your home and you can't have contact with your parents, your siblings are all that you have. Most of the time you can't even talk to your siblings without supervision or someone else listening in. We should have the right to talk with our siblings without permission especially when we are feeling down, because they are the only people who understand. – Youth Leader from Minneapolis

Me, myself not knowing that I have two other siblings I was never even allowed to know, makes me sad. I can only imagine how hard it would be to be separated from siblings you'd know your whole life. I found out about my other siblings just 3 ½ years ago. Its easy to miss someone you have never met, but I believe it is really hard to miss someone you already know. I would like to be able to contact my siblings. – Youth Leader from Crookston

I decided to help with the sibling bill of rights because I have siblings. And a few of them were separated from me during the transition to foster care. This was hard to me, since I was used to seeing them all the time, and they were my idols for a while. I also want to bring to light the fact that my siblings are the only reason I'm alive today, because once I fell into a deep depression, they were the only people that were there for me, and I stuck around to help them through life. I chose the sibling connections because I want people to know how much of an impression siblings make on each other. – Youth Leader from Bemidji

I have a little sister that was 7yrs old at the time, an older brother that was over 18 so he didn't have to go with us. Me and my other 2 siblings were 15,16 & I was tuning 17 later in May. While growing up, we were always in the same household so being separated was hard for all of us. While we were in care I only talked to my sister 4 times in 5 months may 2013- Nov 2013. then all of a sudden the foster home she was in phone was lost till January of 2014. Then our Cp worker got us supervised visits once a week. then April of 2015 it got cut off. then didn't see or speak to her till Nov of 2015. super supervised visits and more. then 5 times the foster home cancelled cause of stuff she had planned when our visits were court ordered. September of 2016 my sister got to go to my uncle's house and been there ever since. Sibling Connection is very important to me cause my siblings are my world and the way the system played their part wasn't right at all to siblings in care. So I'm extremely blessed to have the siblings bill of right moving forward. so future siblings will not have to go thru what us other youth went thru when it comes to sibling connections. – Youth Leader from Minneapolis

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