

Stark County System of Care Expansion Planning: Key Notes from First Meeting March 5th, 2015

Agenda: Introductions, ground rules for discussion, identify subcommittee leader, discussion of issues surrounding treatment (notes below).

Issues Regarding Treatment

- Long waiting period for adolescents to get an appointment or be seen by specialist
 - People just want immediate help but the system drags out the process with many questions and it discourages people from seeking help
- Referral process- parents don't know where to go/ who to call and the waiting time for an appointment after hospitalization is still 6-8 weeks
 - The longer the wait time is to get an appointment, the more likely a parent will lost interest
- 35% failure rate for treatment
- Lower SES and minorities are challenged to services
 - Medication is a sensitive topic for these groups because it is seen as a way to continue to marginalize them
- Children cannot get to the doctors (due to transportation and time barriers)
- Children do not always get the medications they need (doctors don't prescribe it, and when they do, parents/children cannot get to the pharmacy)
- Need to treat the problem causing mental illness and not just prescribe more medicine
- Mental health/physical health integration is broken
- Reimbursement Challenges and Barriers
- Primary care physicians do not feel comfortable managing mental health medications
 - Parents get stranded with no one to manage their children's medications