Dear Potential Collective Impact Youth Partner,

Are you a young person between the ages of 18 and 26 years with mental health issues who has received services? Do you have experience participating with multiple systems of care to get help? If so, we would like to tell you about the new Office of Children’s Mental Health (OCMH).

As you may have learned, the OCMH was recently created because children and youth with mental health concerns are often caught in a complicated system of agencies and services, and frequently go un-served or underserved. The central goal of the OCMH is to remove the barriers that may get in the way of a child who needs help.

Our method to make these improvements is called Collective Impact. Collective impact is a process that facilitates the commitment of a group of people using a common agenda to solve complex social problems. This model also prioritizes the voices of people who have participated in the programs that need to change. For more information about collective impact, please see the following: http://www.fsg.org/tabid/191/ArticleId/628/Default.aspx?spush=true. This approach will only be successful if we have people like you giving your opinions and recommendations to state leaders, policy makers and program coordinators.

Joann Stephens has been hired as the Office’s Family Relations Coordinator to represent families and ensure your ‘voice’ is heard at the highest decision making levels; this includes coordinating the Collective Impact (CI) Youth Partner activities. The first step in this process is making sure that you know what is initially required. As a starting place, we will need Collective Impact Youth Partners to participate in the following:

- Orientation to describe the OCMH, Collective Impact, and your role (one time event on Monday, October 20, 2014 – time and location to be determined)
- Initial Collective Impact Executive training (one time event to be held in Madison on October 31, 20.4)
- Stakeholder Kickoff Event (meeting date, location and times will be announced)
- Ongoing workgroup (meeting dates and times will be established by each workgroup)

Reimbursement is available during our first phase of activities to cover expenses (meals, transportation and lodging if necessary, as well as to provide compensation for your participation).

If you are interested in applying to become a CI Youth Partner, please return the attached application by 3:00 pm on Thursday, September 25, 2014 via fax, e-mail or mail. If you are curious and want to learn more prior to completing the application, please don’t hesitate to contact Joann at 608-266-9336 or email via Joann.Stephens@wisconsin.gov.

If you’re not able to participate in this project right now, please know that there will be many other opportunities to help with other activities. If you’d like to receive updates, please let Joann know.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hudson
Director

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