

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 12, 2020

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Tracy Gehrke, Sharon Oberkrieser, Kathy Schumacher, Linda Pierron, Staci Thorkildsen

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Nancy Koene, Kyra Rost, Mary Salzer, Cristie Siebenaller and Julienne Gohde

Elizabeth Wagner called the meeting to order at approximately 12:34pm. Introductions were made.

1. Approval of Minutes for the February 11, 2020 Meeting:

Cristie Siebenaller moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Staci Thorkildsen and carried.

2. Member Sharing:

Elizabeth Wagner is the Family Support Supervisor who shared that the Winnebago County Human Services website is now available in other languages. Elizabeth introduced us to Kyra Rost. She is the newest Lutheran Social Services staff who was hired in mid-March. Her previous experience is with Centennial Inn and Bertrand and Schmitz Consulting as a Certified Autism paraprofessional. She has a bachelors degree in psychology from UWO.

Tracy Gehrke of Public Health informed us that all of the nurses are being utilized for COVID-19 contact tracing. A few health department retirees have come back to the office to assist with this process. Car seat distributions have drastically reduced. Focus is trying to work with desperate situations at this time. They are still working with pregnant moms but can't formally enroll them into their program until they have a face to face appointment. Families in need of food who have children under the age of 5 can enroll in WIC program.

Sharon Oberkrieser is parent of a child with Down syndrome and facilitates the **Down to Earth Group**. She shared that online learning likely differs for children with special needs than it is for a typical child. It has presented some challenges but is working out fine.

Kathy Schumacher is a music therapist who owns Music Therapy Services, LLC. In response to the pandemic, she has needed to quickly learn how to support her clients via telehealth for music therapy. It has gone amazingly well. The early childhood group activities have stopped at this time. Overall, she has approximately a 50% reduction in revenue due to COVID-19.

Staci Thorkildsen is the Family Resource Specialist at UWO Head Start. The teachers are providing virtual learning and connecting with families over the phone for enrollment and applications for Head Start.

Linda Pierron is the Director of Special Education for the Oshkosh Public School District. She has reached out to some special education parents when there have been challenges with online learning. Overall, she is pleased with how online learning is developing and staff have a variety of ways to reach families. There will not likely be any in person contact until July and summer school options are unknown at this time. Further discussion will occur as to what school services will look like in the fall.

Cristie Siebenaller from Behavioral Health shared updates regarding intensive in-home therapy teams who serve youth in the CCS program. Currently, the teams are doing sessions via telehealth and are working from home. They are planning to provide a survey to those families looking for feedback on the virtual services. Overall the feedback from the clients has been very positive.

Nancy Koene from Behavioral Health shared that she has heard wonderful things about the virtual learning that Kathy of Music Therapy Services, LLC has been providing. Nancy is impressed with schools and the path that they are taking with offering lunches for the families and online teaching for the students.

Mary Salzer is a Youth Justice Supervisor who shared that approximately 75% of the staff are working from home and rotating between office and home. Most contacts are being made by Skype, Facetime or other technology. Child Welfare still has in person contact when needed with PPE and using precautions.

3. Children's COP and CLTS Program Updates:

- Service and Program Updates – CLTS annual Metastar Review is complete. Strengths include enrolling new children within timelines set by the state, SSC activities demonstrating parent involvement in service planning, and certifying providers prior to the start of service. Final reports are yet to come.
- Waitlist Updates
 - Currently, 12 youth are on the CLTS Waitlist. Staff are continually assessing new youth to be added to the waitlist as well as enrolling youth into the program from the waitlist by phone or virtually during the pandemic.

- In 2015, 296 youth were enrolled into CLTS compared to 377 in 2019
- Staff have enrolled 89 new clients in 2019 and have enrolled approximately 35 thus far in 2020.
- Operations during COVID-19 –
During COVID, the state’s guidance for the CLTS program is:
 - Services: All can be done virtually except respite and most providers are now doing virtual services.
 - CLTS service coordinators cannot make in person home visits unless family requires it and the majority of families are not interested in meeting in person at this time.
 - Some services provided virtually include: music therapy, equine therapy, daily living skills and supportive home care
 - Some providers offering in person now or in the coming weeks include: ABLE, Brightstar, Christian Servants, TRIO, and Advocates for Healthy Transitional Living
 - Some providers planning to do in person services starting in summer: Innovative Services, Individualized Youth Services and some camps
 - Group services are now allowed in person and virtually
 - Increased contact with families is occurring based on the family’s needs
 - CLTS parental fees for those with substantial change in income due to COVID will be waived and fees will be recalculated for those who did not have a change in income but their services are reduced due to the pandemic.
 - CLTS participants cannot be closed at this time unless move out of state, parent request or age out of youth services and adult services are confirmed and family is in agreement with the transition.
 - Program referrals had slowed but are beginning to increase in the past couple of weeks.

4. Birth-to-Three Program Report:

- Social-Emotional Grant
Approval of this grant by the state has been delayed due to the pandemic. Counties should hear if their grant was approved in May or June of 2020.
- Operations during COVID-19 –
 - Birth to Three has seen a significant decrease in referrals during the pandemic, however they are starting to slightly increase again.
 - Guidance from the state has been to cease in person home visits but continue to provide services virtually.
 - Telehealth services are billable including therapy evaluations by phone or video.

5. **Behavioral Health:**

- Operations during COVID 19:
 - Nancy Koene shared that the Behavioral Health Intensive therapy services unit is working remotely from home.
 - They have been attending State meetings virtually each week. There have been ongoing changes and requirements of the programs relating to billing.
 - Telehealth is allowable for Comprehensive Community Services via video or phone, so families that do not feel comfortable being available through video can participate through phone calls. Some youth prefer video over in person.
 - Personal Protective Equipment is used if staff need to drop something off at client's home. There are several clients that believe that this is not an issue and are not social distancing. Because of that, the staff needs to be careful and emphasize that when the Safer at Home order is lifted that there are still guidelines to be followed.
 - There have been very minimal no shows for appointments.

6. **2019 Focus Areas and Committee Role**

- **State of the Child Report-** This has been completed and finalized. Tracy Gehrke believes that they had an interview for an Implementation Grant. This was to be held virtually with the Oshkosh Community Foundation.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services Committee has been scheduled for **Tuesday, September 8, 2020** from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in **Room 33** of the **Oshkosh Human Services Building**. The committee approved the following meeting dates for 2020: **December 8, 2020**. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Julienne Gohde, Recorder