

## Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

### Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020

**TIME:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** VIRTUAL

**PRESENT:** Tracy Gehrke, Sharon Oberkrieser, Amy Stack, Erin Kraft, Alison Windle, Jessica Quillman, Kelly Skifstad, Marie Bollman, Kathy Schumacher, Pam DeLap, and Deb Fleming, Linda Pierron

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Wagner, Nancy Koene, Mary Salzer, and Julienne Gohde

Sharon Oberkrieser called the meeting to order at approximately 12:34pm.  
Introductions were made.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes for the May 12, 2020 Meeting:

Amy Stack moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Nancy Koene and carried.

#### 2. Member Sharing:

- Elizabeth Wagner, the Family Support Supervisor for Winnebago County Human Services, shared a Winnebago County Mortgage Assistance program handout. This is a program specifically for people that were impacted by COVID-19, who were up to date on their mortgage payments prior to March but then became delinquent on their payments anywhere between March and August of this year directly related to loss of income due to COVID-19. Families do not need to be connected with Human Services to apply. \$2000 maximum per household can be provided. Applications are on the Winnebago County website and can be completed Sept. 1- October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Marci Thiry, Director of Special Services for Menasha Joint School District, shared that they have a significant number of families that went virtual. Elementary students that did not choose virtual are attending school in person every day, while the Middle and High school students are attending using a hybrid model. Things are going well so far.
- Pam DeLap is a parent of a son with Autism. They have held off on the job search during the COVID-19 times as they feel it is safer to have him at home. He continues to receive services through Fox Valley autism online. They just joined a research

project with the Weisman Center that focuses on the transition from youth to adulthood. This is a 3-5 year program titled Advocating Supports to Improve Service Transitions. Her son is a very visual learner and he has been able to see what the expectations of different jobs are virtually. They have been taking this time to learn about potential experiences for the future.

- Sharon Oberkrieser is the parent of a child with Down Syndrome. He started high school last week. His special education team has tailored a suitable program for him.
- Linda Pierron is the Director of Special Education for the Oshkosh Area School District. Even with school closings, special education students were back in the building within 2 days. If the schools go into complete virtual learning mode, she will continue to bring special education children back into the building as long as it is not a safety risk. She is grateful for support from Public Health and the families have been fantastic. About 1100 students in the OASD have chosen to go virtual this year.
- Amy Stack is a parent of a child with cerebral palsy. Even with her challenges, her daughter wears her mask all day in school. Her daughter is happy to be back in the school routine. Amy reached out to Covey for assistance in case the school district goes virtual, however they are not servicing children anymore. She continues to look into her options. Having her daughter in school makes the entire family happier.
- Wendy Hein is the Director of the Early Intervention Birth to Three program. She could not be happier that her son is back in school as her son is in a better place emotionally and the mood in the house is great!
- Stacy Thorkildsen is one of the Family Resource Specialists for Head Start. There is a virtual option for the 3K and 4K programs. Oshkosh site is full but will always take applications for the waitlist. Staggered class times are working out well so far.
- Tracy Gehrke is a Public Health Nurse for Winnebago County Health Department. She is the chair of the Back to School fair. They had every agency deliver supplies to their families and distributed themselves this year due to COVID-19. This year they served 900 children. Car seats and home visits remain on hold. They are considering how to provide some services in emergency situations. The WIC director, Barb, is retiring on October 2. They plan to provide services in person starting October 1. The Diaper bank is open in the Oshkosh and Neenah WIC locations and sizes range from newborn to size 6 and also include hygiene products.
- Kathy Schumacher is a board-certified music therapist who owns Music Services, LLC. She is seeing 3 clients through CLTS in person, otherwise she is completely virtual and no groups at this time. Many Oshkosh families were concerned when schools were starting, but she was able to share Linda's phone number which helped them all out tremendously.

- Mary Salzer is the Youth Justice Supervisor for Winnebago County Human Services. Her team has been helping with the school startup with families. Many workers were communicating with families that were struggling at the start of the school year. Her staff has been doing some in person since June and it is going well.
- Marie Bollman is the Head of Children and Families outreach services at the Oshkosh Public Library. The library is not open to the public, but appointments can be made to come in for services (use a computer, printing, notary services). Curbside pick up for materials has kept them busy for the summer. People can receive a temporary library card virtually right now.
- Cristie Siebenaller is the Lead Service facilitator on the CCS Behavioral Health team. The return to school has been a positive experience for the families that she is supporting.

### **3. Children's COP and CLTS:**

- Service and Program Updates
  - The CLTS team will have a new LSS staff member, Mallory Randall, who will be starting by the next meeting.
  - Sheila Leadingham retired in July and the position has been filled by Hannah Ulwelling, who will be starting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and the hope is that she can start connecting with families by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - During COVID, the state's guidance for the CLTS program is the following:
    - Essentially all services can be done virtually except respite. Many providers are offering in person and virtual services.
    - CLTS SSC is allowed to make in person home visits unless the family chooses virtual. Families must follow basic guidelines if they want in person visits (wearing masks/social distance).
    - The State paused youth transitions but are now asking to move forward with those for children eligible for adult services.
    - Winnebago County Department of Human Services chose to waive all parental fees for all families through 2020. This may continue in 2021.
    - The State is to take over managing allocations for CLTS to allow for more efficiency. CCOP funding is expected to continue to be used primarily for youth not eligible for CLTS or on the waitlist and cannot yet enroll or to meet the Maintenance of Effort Winnebago County pays toward CLTS funding costs.
    - The Waiver 5-year renewal is up for renewal for 2022-2027 with the federal government. Counties will continue to manage the program. There will not be any changes to the rates, even though some rates are lower than providers may accept. An outlier rate can be requested that is higher than what the allowable State rate schedule lists.
    - School services-CLTS continues to collaborate closely with families about what school supports are available. Their focus is on the families who need to work to be able to support their families. They

are also trying to support families with high need children. The state has allowed for some flexibilities in how CLTS can offer services.

- CLTS is not allowed to close anyone on the CLTS program at this time even if they are unable to contact them for a number of months.
  - CLTS referrals decreased in March through May. The team continues to take children off of the waitlist with a plan to have no one on the waitlist by the end of the year.
- Waitlist Updates
    - The current waitlist is under 10.
    - 61 new youth enrolled since 2020 began and 16 youth closed
    - New Referrals 2018: 174, 2019: 201, 2020-118 to date

#### **4. Birth-to-Three:**

- Operations during COVID-19 –  
Wendy shared that home visits were suspended due to States guidance and were able to restart home visits in July but also offering a virtual option also. Approximately 75% of families are choosing to do in person visits. The transition to virtual support was made easier because of the teaching support that is their coaching model: teach the parents the strategies to work with their child directly on a daily basis. Referrals did decrease for a few months but started rising in June. Enrollment is still fairly low at 250. Some of the protections that were put in place for the team before starting home visits include: screening questionnaire/phone call the morning of the visit, cinch sack full of PPE supplies, maximum visit of 4 per day, and participation agreement signed with families. They have had situations where Public Health has been a valuable partner.

#### **5. Behavioral Health:**

- Operations during COVID-19 –  
Nancy Koene is the Youth Mental Health Supervisor in Behavioral Health with Winnebago County Human Services. Currently, her team is working with telehealth or meeting outside with clients while wearing masks and physically distancing. The team created a survey for the clients to complete to gather results of this new process. These surveys produced positive results. The team is working remotely at this time. They continue to receive referrals. They also have meetings with the state every other week. Nancy provide positive feedback as to how schools are supporting families. Nancy is hoping to see some parents involved in this meeting that have received services through the CCS-CST program.

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

- State of the Child Report: The group was awarded the full implementation grant for \$256,000.00 over 3 years. It will pay for an increase in developmental screenings, an

increase in partners doing screenings, developing data sharing agreements, and housing screening data in a shared database.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Children's COP Advisory Committee has been scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8, 2020** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Julienne Gohde, Recorder